

# THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 2052.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1867.

PRICE  
THREEPENCE  
Stamped Edition, 4d.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—CIVIL ENGINEERING.**—Prof. POLE, F.R.S., Memb. Inst. C.E., will commence his COURSE on MONDAY, March 4, at 10.30 a.m. The Course will consist of alternate Lectures, delivered from 10.30 to 12.45 on Mondays and Tuesdays of the first three weeks in each month. Fee, 5s. A special Prospectus of the Course may be had on application at the Office of the College.  
CH. CASSAL, LL.D., Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Laws.  
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council. February 21, 1867.

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2. Matthew Haygarth's Resting-place.

II. THE MONTHS: MARCH. Illustrated by Alfred Thompson.

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## LITERATURE

*The Reform Act, 1832.—The Correspondence of the late Earl Grey with His Majesty King William IV. and with Sir Herbert Taylor. From Nov., 1830, to June, 1832. Edited by Henry Earl Grey. 2 vols. (Murray.)*

THAT the multitude sees only a part of its contemporary history, and that the aspects of political life withheld from public observation are neither less amusing nor less instructive than those which cannot be hidden, are truths that find many illustrations in these remarkable volumes, which, thirty-five years after the events to which they chiefly relate, present us with a new and most trustworthy account of the struggle that resulted in the Reform Act of 1832. Of our previous narratives of the same contest between an aristocracy bent on retaining a monopoly of power, and a middle class resolved to acquire voice and influence in the Legislature of the nation, Lord Grey observes, "Many of them are disfigured by mis-statements and misrepresentations arising from prejudice and passion on one side or the other; and even those which are written with commendable fairness are not free from serious errors, into which the authors have been betrayed by the want of sufficiently full and trustworthy information." Indeed, this contribution to political history throws so much light on familiar matters, and reveals so many new facts, that it may be fairly said to have put out of date all preceding accounts; whilst it has, at length, rendered it possible for a competent writer to produce a satisfactory and final record of the difficulties overcome by Earl Grey's Reform administration. Appearing at the moment when the working classes are shaking the doors of privilege, such revelations cannot be easily estimated at more than their real worth. We altogether concur with the present Earl Grey as to the importance of the disclosures which he makes, with Her Majesty's permission; yet he seems on some points to miscalculate their effect.

For example, we think he errs in saying that, "as to the King, no impartial reader of his correspondence can fail to form from it a higher estimate of his character than that which is commonly received." So far as the King's mental power and attainments are concerned, the papers will make but little change in the general estimation of the sovereign, who was fortunate in being compelled to accede to a measure which made him, for a time, the idol of the populace. It was a favourite notion with respect to the great question of William's reign, that he brought to its consideration a mind free from prejudices; but these volumes make it certain that he represented, with no common force, the intellectual narrowness, the animosities and fears of a patrician who had grown grey in the service of Courts and in distrust of the people. He was saved from the worst errors of the Tory party by his more than ordinary share of constitutional timidity and by his good luck in falling into the hands of Earl Grey, who managed him with consummate skill. The forbearance, the tact, the judicious artifice with which the Minister influenced his master, are inimitable; but the delicacy and triumphant result with which the task was accomplished are, at this distance of time, likely enough to blind a careless spectator to its difficulty. Had the Premier been something less conciliatory, or less adroit in adapting himself to the infirmities of the royal nature, he would have inspired the King with absolute

horror of the policy into which he was lured against his will, and would have placed him in the hands and at the mercy of advisers who would have shelved Reform by bringing on revolution.

Such is the impression produced by the statements of the King's letters; and this effect is not lessened by reference to the circumstances of their production. For the most part, they were written for the King by his secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor, who, in the discharge of his official duty, often wrote as many as fifty letters in a single day, and without whose advice the King seems scarcely to have formed an opinion on any matter of importance. "Very few," observes Lord Grey, "of the King's letters (only two or three short ones in the whole collection) are in his own handwriting. This arose from the difficulty he had in writing, owing to a rheumatic affection in his hand. His Majesty's letters were generally written for him, from his verbal instructions, by his private secretary, Sir H. Taylor, and he signed them after they had been read over to him and approved. A large proportion of the letters, however, *it will be observed, were addressed to or written by Sir H. Taylor;* but these letters are, in fact, no less a part of the correspondence between the King and my father than those which are so in form as well as in substance." Earl Grey is satisfied that Sir Herbert Taylor's "influence was only used for the purpose of allaying the feelings of irritation created at times in His Majesty's mind, and of smoothing any difficulties that arose between him and his Ministers"; but he admits that "perhaps it may be thought that this mode of carrying on the correspondence between the King and his Ministers must have given more influence than was right to His Majesty's private secretary; and, undoubtedly, it might have been attended with much inconvenience, if the post had been held by a person capable of abusing the great trust reposed in him." So far as Earl Grey was concerned the arrangement was by no means inconvenient; for so friendly a feeling seems to have existed between the Premier and the secretary that the former sometimes empowered the latter to exercise his discretion in deciding whether the King should hear the whole or only a part of a ministerial communication. For instance, on the 20th of March, 1831, the secretary writes to Earl Grey, "Your first letter contained no caution that I should not show it to His Majesty, or say anything on the subject of the dissolution; and I therefore did not hesitate showing it to him, as I have been in the habit of doing in all instances; to which I was further induced from the opinion I entertained, that it was of the utmost importance to your Lordship, and to the deliberations (which I inadvertently imagined would take place this day, instead of yesterday, as I discovered afterwards), for which the meeting of the Cabinet had been summoned, that you should, without loss of time, be possessed of His Majesty's sentiments." One would like to know if, in the reserved portions of the correspondence, there occur many passages that, like the one just quoted, would countenance a suspicion that Sir Herbert Taylor was much more his master's master than King William's subjects would have dared to say, and the pride of the country would like to acknowledge even at this date.

Commencing with November 23, 1830, the earlier letters relate principally to the Queen's outfit, court appointments, and other comparatively unimportant matters; but even in these opening letters, there is enough to show that all his subjects earnest reformers were the

persons least acceptable to His Majesty, who looked upon the Reform Bill much as a man sick of a dangerous malady might regard a painful and perilous operation to which his surgeons advised him to submit. It was the King's wont to speak of his enemies as "individuals"; and amongst such "individuals" place was given to O'Connell, Orator Hunt, Mr. Hume, and other extreme politicians. Describing the Repealer's entry into Dublin, in December, 1830, the Premier writes to Sir H. Taylor: "He was met by a procession, prepared by the Union of Trades, of between five and six thousand people, who conducted him to his house in Merrion Square, from whence he addressed them, recommending, at the end of his speech, that they should disperse peaceably, which they did"—a piece of intelligence which afforded the King so little satisfaction, that we read in Sir H. Taylor's reply, "The King observed, that he would have been better pleased if this assembly of people had not dispersed quietly *at his bidding*, as the control which he has successfully exercised upon various occasions in this way appears to His Majesty the most striking proof of the influence he has acquired over a portion of the lower classes in Ireland." On learning that Mr. Stanley was likely to lose his seat for Preston, the secretary writes: "This affords to His Majesty an opportunity to mark, in the most unequivocal manner, his determination to give, in these critical times, the utmost support in his power to your Lordship and the present Administration, by offering his assistance in bringing Mr. Stanley in for Windsor, if he should lose his election for Preston; and His Majesty has ordered me to assure you that he avails himself of this opportunity with great satisfaction." Sir H. Taylor goes on to say, "Having been member for Windsor, I may state that the expenses of the election will amount to about 1,000*l.*, and the annual subscriptions, charities, &c., to something less than 100*l.*" Soon after, Earl Grey writes concerning Mr. Stanley's rejection at Preston—"This seat, therefore, is lost; and, what is worse, Mr. Hunt has found his way into Parliament." In the following February the Premier had ceased to apprehend much trouble from the Orator, and writes, "Mr. Hunt spoke four or five times. The account I hear of him is, that he is in appearance a good country gentleman, and that his manner of speaking with a strong provincial accent does not threaten much difficulty."

So late as January 24, 1831, Lord Brougham's tenderness towards rotten boroughs caused Lord Grey so much uneasiness that he wrote to Lord Durham, "I find from Althorp that there is likely to be more difficulty than I thought about Reform. Upon his saying to Brougham that he was glad to find there was so great a concurrence of opinion, he answered that he had great objection to the abolition of close boroughs; that they were by no means the worst parts of the representation; that there would be no means for getting seats for persons in the Government, &c. He had hinted at this in the general discussion, but I thought had been satisfied by my answer, that, whatever the inconveniences might be, these boroughs could not be maintained. On this point I cannot give way. If he persevere he may throw us over with the King." Occurring just as the Premier was preparing his measure for the King's consideration, the Chancellor's objection was an affair of no slight trouble,—the sovereign being so ill-disposed towards the whole question of Reform, that he would gladly have availed himself of any plausible pretext for curbing Lord Grey's intentions. The subject

was habitually mentioned by His Majesty as "the perilous question"; and the terms in which he alluded to it in his most hopeful moments were suggestive of distrust and even of panic. On January 12, 1831, Sir H. Taylor wrote of him to Earl Grey, "I do not conceal, however, from your Lordship, that he looks forward with more anxiety to the proceedings in Parliament than to any other circumstance; and that the evils and the mischief which may be met by the salutary exercise of the authority of a vigorous Government strike him as unimportant when compared with the possible admission of projects which may have the effect of permanently lessening the authority and resources of that Government, the maintenance of which His Majesty considers indispensable to the security of the country, and to its preservation from revolution." In the same letter the enthusiasm of advanced reformers is stigmatized as the "Radical mania." Day after day the Premier received fresh assurances of His Majesty's dread of "the wild and mischievous projects of the Radicals," and his utter abomination of the Ballot and Universal Suffrage. One of his arguments against the Ballot is remarkable. With his own signature he wrote to Earl Grey, on February 4, 1831, "The King . . . is induced thus pointedly to notice the proposal of introducing Election by Ballot, in order to declare that nothing should ever induce him to yield to it, or to sanction a practice which would, in his opinion, be a protection to concealment, *would abolish the influence of fear* and shame, and would be inconsistent with the manly spirit and the free avowal of opinion which distinguish the people of England." His chief anxiety was to protect the landed interest. Under the impression that the forty-shillings freehold franchise was favourable to popular representation, and a cause of weakness to territorial families, he urged its abolition; but on receiving the Premier's assurance that he was mistaken on this point, he wrote on February 6, 1831, that he was "by no means disposed to object to the continuance of the forty shillings franchise, as Lord Grey considered it would operate rather favourably than otherwise for the landed interest." Save at moments when he suspected a determination on the part of the Peerage to invade his prerogative,—as, for instance, on the occasion of Lord Wharncliffe's notice of motion for an address dissuasive of dissolution,—he expressed consistent respect for the opposition that incessantly thwarted and harassed his ministers, and corresponding displeasure against those who presumed to speak angrily of the opponents of popular will. In a letter to the chairman of a public meeting held in Birmingham, Lord John Russell in October, 1831, observed, "I beg to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the undeserved honour done me by 150,000 of my countrymen. Our prospects are now obscured for a moment, and I trust only for a moment. It is impossible that the whisper of a faction should prevail against the voice of a nation." Although far stronger language was in those times of excitement daily applied to his Cabinet by opposition leaders, the King lost no time in expressing his disapprobation of the letter, "in which the opposition of a large body of the aristocracy of the country, and of a majority of the House of Lords, upon great constitutional question, which had been gravely and unreservedly discussed in that House, is called 'The Whisper of a Faction.'"

So overpowering was King William's indignation at a political speech made at Devizes by Col. Napier, that he actually proposed to strike that gallant and distinguished officer off the half-pay list. His convictions with respect to

representative institutions and the whole group of questions raised by the proposal for Parliamentary Reform, may be inferred from the following extract from a long letter which he addressed to Earl Grey on February 4, 1831:

"Great stress is laid upon the general opinion of the people, as being in favour of an extensive Reform; but His Majesty very much doubts whether there be sufficient ground for this conclusion. He cannot consider public meetings as a just criterion of the sentiments of the people. The objects of those meetings have, in general, been the promotion of discontent and the disturbance of the public peace; and those who have not felt inclined to encourage these objects have absented themselves from them, and have viewed with alarm proceedings which might affect their security and their property. On the other hand, those who have little or nothing to lose, naturally look for advantage to themselves from any change, and are callous to the prospect of its ruinous effects on the mass, as the prejudice cannot reach them. But even when such be not the motive of agitators, it may be questioned whether, in a country where so much freedom exists, Reform, which contemplates election by ballot and universal suffrage, be not a specious cloak for the introduction of Republicanism. The influence which has been exercised by Peers in the representation, and which has become so much an object of vituperation, attaches to *property*; and it appears reasonable that it should in that sense be exercised by individuals who, having the larger stake, have the greatest interest in the maintenance of the security and prosperity of the country, and of the established order of things. It is natural that they should possess influence over those to whom their property enables them to give employment and subsistence; and it is desirable that an useful union should thus be promoted between the upper and lower classes of society, more especially as the means by which revolutionists chiefly strive to attain their ends is by the destruction of those links. Experience has indeed shown that their attacks are almost invariably levelled at the existing aristocracy, although the destruction of the monarchy may not always be their object. The King conceives that the most strenuous advocates for Reform, those whose object it may be to introduce a preponderance of *popular* influence, will not be disposed to deny that the influence of the House of Commons has increased more than that of the Crown, or of the House of Peers; and the question is, whether greater danger be not to be apprehended from its encroachments, than from any other evil which may be the subject of speculation; and whether it is not from this source that the mixed form of government of this country has to dread annihilation? Even now the House of Commons may at once disable the whole machine, and may, by a factious combination, stop the supplies; they may produce by a similar combination a degree of resistance which has been gradually placed more and more beyond the influence of the Crown and of the Government, and of which the effect, in the dissolution of the Government, may be instantaneous and unexpected. These manoeuvres may be brought into play in rapid succession, and may totally deprive the executive authorities of their power of action, or suspend it at most critical periods, when the safety of the empire may depend upon the support to be given to that power of action. All this would seem to point out the inexpediency, not to say the insecurity, of rendering the House of Commons more *popular* than it already is in the materials of its composition, by the substitution of a representation of *numbers* for one of *property*. That equilibrium of the three estates, which it is so essential to preserve in their just and proper bearings relatively upon each other, would be destroyed; the House of Commons would acquire an undue preponderance in the scale; and the consequence, sooner or later, would be a democracy in its worst form."

It is no matter for wonder that the King, who, at such a critical period, could thus write about the House of Commons, was reluctant to give his Ministers that unflinching support

which the crisis demanded. Much has been said about the courage and promptitude with which he dissolved Parliament in the April of 1831; but in the light now thrown upon his conduct in that matter and upon his previous unwillingness to dissolve, the reader is compelled to take a less complimentary view of the royal action. Alike on that occasion and at the last crisis of the struggle, when he reluctantly empowered his Ministers to force the Bill through the Upper House by a wholesale creation of peers, he may be described as submitting to circumstances that were beyond his control, and taking the only course left open to him. Of his state of mind in March, 1831, with respect to dissolution, an exact view is obtained in a letter from Lord Durham to Lord Grey. In that month the King could not look beyond the excitements and difficulties of an appeal to the country. On the consequences of a rejection unattended by dissolution he had no time to think. "It is," wrote Lord Durham, "surprising that throughout all these arguments against dissolution, grounded on the excited state of public feeling, he never for an instant alludes to what will be the effect of a rejection of the Bill, if unaccompanied by a dissolution." It was by placing before him a vivid picture of the certain consequences of the latter alternative, that the Ministers eventually induced the King to take the former.

Of the Duke of Wellington's unwavering firmness with respect to Reform, and the impression which events had made on his old colleagues at the time of Lord Grey's accession to office, an illustration is afforded by a private and confidential note addressed by the Earl to Sir H. Taylor, in which the writer sought to impress upon the King's mind, "that we (*i.e.* the Cabinet) did not cause the excitement about Reform. We found it full of vigour when we came into office; and the King told me that every one of the late ministers, except the Duke of Wellington, when they took leave of him, acknowledged that some Reform was necessary."

*The Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer. With Memoir by Sir Harris Nicolas. (Bell & Daldy.)*

In this very pretty and very handy reprint of Chaucer's Poems an excellent Early English scholar, Mr. R. Morris, has taken Tyrwhitt's text as a basis for improvement only. Such manuscripts of the poems as were known to exist in either public or private libraries have been consulted by him for surer readings than are now common in editions of Chaucer's works. For example, the Harl. MS. 7334, found to be, on the whole, a uniform and accurate manuscript of 'The Canterbury Tales,' has been pretty closely followed by Mr. Morris; the chief variations being an occasional happy reading from the Lansdowne MS. 851. Of course, when differences of moment seemed to have crept into the received text, Mr. Morris referred to the manuscripts copied by Tyrwhitt, and worked out the true reading from a consideration of the various copies.

In this new "Aldine edition" of English poets, all corrections in the text are printed in italics; so that a reader knows at the first glance what is expected from him in the way of adhesion. This is an excellent thing for the student.

'Troilus and Cressida' is printed mainly from the Harl. MS. 2280; the 'Romaunt of the Rose' from the unique manuscript in the Hunterian Museum, at Glasgow; the 'Court of Love' from a manuscript in Trinity College, Cambridge; 'The Assembly of Fools' and

'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale' from a manuscript in the Bodleian; and minor poems from other manuscripts. Only about half-a-dozen poems, and those of no great value, have been reprinted from books.

Nicolas's life is prefixed to the poems, also Tyrwhitt's essay 'On the Language and Versification of Chaucer.' To the latter performance the Rev. W. W. Skeat, editor of 'Sir Launcelot,' has appended a few additional sections. The whole work is enriched with an excellent glossary.

Mr. Morris has done his share of this work thoroughly well. We are especially glad to find that he avoids the common fault of our editors of ancient poetry—an undue disarrangement of his predecessors. He speaks of Tyrwhitt in respectful language throughout; and, by this moderation of tone, gains the reader's entire acquiescence in arguments directed against the minor results of that gentleman's literary labours.

The work is nicely printed, on good paper, and is elegantly bound in green cloth, with gold lettering. On comparing it with three or four editions of Chaucer now standing on our shelves, we have no hesitation in giving it the highest place.

*Chronicum Scotorum. A Chronicle of Irish Affairs, from the Earliest Times to A.D. 1135. With a Supplement, containing the Events from 1141 to 1150. Edited, with a Translation, by William M. Hennessy. (Longmans & Co.)*

The authorities to whom, in common with all who take an interest in our past history, we are not a little indebted for the selection and issue of the Government Series of historical works known as the "Rolls Publications" have taken a trip across St. George's Channel in the present instance; to pay their attentions to the sister isle, and to let us English folks know something more than we have hitherto known about 'Fair Erin' under her middle-age aspect. Their attentions have been well directed; their selection for carrying out their purpose is a very good one; and we congratulate the authorities, the Master of the Rolls, of course, in the foreground, upon their choice.

The 'Chronicum Scotorum,' which in the present volume Mr. Hennessy has placed before the public, in a form calculated, we are inclined to think, to tempt many an English reader to enter upon regions of history hitherto unexplored by him, is surrounded with a mystery as to its origin that defies satisfactory solution; the doubt being, whether it is an original composition of the twelfth century, or a compilation belonging to the seventeenth; to which latter period the oldest manuscript of it now in existence (H. 1, No. 18, a paper folio, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin) undoubtedly belongs. From this MS., collated with a more recent copy, in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, Mr. Hennessy has edited the work.

The writer of the Trinity College manuscript—whether compiler or mere transcriber is the question—is known to have been Dubhaltach Mac Firbhsigh, generally written "Duald Mac Firbis," or "Dudley Mac Firbis," as he himself Anglicized the name; one of a long line of professional historians, and, according to their genealogy (as traced by himself), descended from Nathi, or Dathi, the last pagan monarch of Ireland. The date of the birth of Duald Mac Firbis is unknown; but he is supposed to have been born about the year 1555, at a place called Lecan-mic-Firbisy, in the parish of Kilglass, county of Sligo; where his family,

as he informs us, "wrote books of history, annals, poetry, and kept a school of history." Many compilations, Mr. Hennessy says, had been made by preceding members of the Mac Firbis family; only two, however, are now known to exist. Duald Mac Firbis, after a long and laborious life, devoted to the elucidation of the early history and antiquities of his country, but passed in its closing years under the chilling blast of penury and want, came to an end only too strikingly in unison with the scenes of blood and lawlessness which in almost every page of the 'Chronicum Scotorum,' written by his hand, it had been his lot to recount:—

"The death of Mac Firbis," Mr. Hennessy tells us, "was sudden and violent. In the year 1670, while travelling to Dublin, he was assassinated at Dundin, in the county of Sligo. The circumstances attending the event are thus narrated by Prof. O'Cury. Mac Firbis was at that time under the ban of the penal laws. \*\* He must have been then past his eightieth year, and he was, it is believed, on his way to Dublin, probably to visit Robert, the son of Sir James Ware. He took up his lodgings for a night at a small house in the little village of Dunfin, in his native county. While sitting and resting himself in a room off the shop, a young gentleman, of the Crofton family, came in and began to take some liberties with a young woman who had the care of the shop. She, to check his freedom, told him that he would be seen by the old gentleman in the next room; upon which, in a sudden rage, he snatched up a knife from the counter, rushed furiously into the room, and plunged it into the heart of Mac Firbis. Thus it was that, at the hand of a wanton assassin, this great scholar closed his long career,—the last of the regularly educated and most accomplished masters of the history, antiquities, and laws and language of ancient Erinn."

In addition to the work under notice—for which, whether as transcriber or compiler, we are indebted to his labours—Mac Firbis wrote several others, genealogical, historical, and biographical; of which Mr. Hennessy has given a copious list.

As already noticed, there has been considerable uncertainty as to the original from which Mac Firbis made his copy (the oldest known) of the 'Chronicum Scotorum'; so much so that the eminent Celtic scholar, Prof. O'Cury, was at a loss whether to regard his manuscript as the original, or only transcript of an earlier work. The arguments, *pro* and *con*, on this subject we of necessity pass over, and give the following as the conclusion at which the editor has arrived:—

"It needs scarcely be observed that no man was more competent than Prof. O'Cury to pronounce authoritatively on any subject connected with Irish MSS.; and had he transcribed or translated the manuscript in question (MS. A.), or been able to devote the time necessary for a minute investigation of its contents, observed the occasional peculiarities of idiom and archaic phraseology, and the conjectural emendations here and there suggested by Mac Firbis (which will be found referred to in the foot-notes to the present volume), he would doubtless have been led to the conclusion at which the editor has arrived, viz., that it is, in all except the preliminary section, a trustworthy copy of an ancient chronicle compiled in the monastery of Clonmacnois."

The most cogent argument in favour of regarding the MS. as a compilation the learned editor, it seems to us, has somewhat overlooked, or, at all events, has hardly allotted its due weight. The work, though wholly written (a few lines in one or two places excepted) in Irish characters, is, singularly enough, composed partly in Latin and partly in Irish, sentences in each language lying side by side, and continually intermixed: a fact which certainly looks like compilation from at least two earlier

sources, though very possibly made long before Mac Firbis's date.

Like the more ancient 'Chronicle of Tighernach' (with which it seems, in the last century, to have been sometimes confounded), the 'Chronicum Scotorum' is supposed to have been compiled in the oft-levelled, and yet ever-surviving, Abbey of Clonmacnois; and the ecclesiastic to whom, with the greatest semblance of probability, its composition has been ascribed, was Gillachrist Ua Maeileoin, who died in 1127, Abbot of that place. Though by no means equal in importance to the earlier 'Chronicle of Tighernach,' or the 'Annals of the Four Masters,' it is valuable alike, as supplementary, containing various matters which they omit, and as confirmatory, giving the same accounts, but derived, to a greater or less extent, from independent sources.

Irish chronicles have some points of dissimilarity as compared with those composed by English writers; but the 'Chronicum Scotorum' has some striking peculiarities, even as compared with other chronicles of the same country. As already noticed, it is partly Latin, partly Irish, though written in Irish characters throughout. Some of its other peculiarities are best pointed out in the editor's own words:—

"Many words have been left untranslated by me, as exhibiting characteristic meanings. The words *jugulatio* and *jugulatus est*, for instance, are apparently used by the annalist to signify death by violence of whatever nature, not simply by 'cutting the throat,' as understood by the editor of the *Annales Cambriae*, while the expressions *occidens est* and *interfectus est* are seemingly meant to convey that death was inflicted in battle. The death of an ecclesiastic is almost invariably signified by *quies*, *quietus*, *dormitatio*, or *dormivit*; but the obit of a layman is nearly always represented by the expression *moritur*, or *mortuus est*. The words *clericatu* seem to be used in the sense of 'in pilgrimage.' At least, some individuals who are stated in the Chronicle to have died in *clericatu* are represented in the corresponding entries in other Irish Annals as having died *a n-ailitre*, 'in pilgrimage.'

Like other Irish works of a kindred nature, we every here and there meet with fragments of native poetry interlarded; intended, no doubt, to be in better illustration of the narrative, but which, as placed before us in Mr. Hennessy's evidently careful and conscientious translation, fall woefully short (with perhaps one or two trifling exceptions) of the elegance of the so-called Ossianic productions. Here, for example, we have an entry of the death of Ciaran the Great, or Saint Kieran, *s. an. 544*, founder of Clonmacnois, who was evidently thought a poet by others, if his modesty did not allow him to think so himself; a piece of his own composition being annexed by way of epitaph—as tame as it was truthful, no doubt:—

"Ciaran the Great, son of the carpenter, *quietus* in the 33rd year of his age; in the seventh month also after he began to build Cluain-muc-Nois. Beold was the name of Ciaran's father, and Darere the name of his mother, as he himself said:—

Darere was my mother;  
She was not an evil woman;  
Beold, the carpenter, was my father;  
Of the Latharra Molt."

There are numerous references in the Chronicle to the affairs of Scotland and Wales, and to the Cruthne, or Picts; but whether to the Picts of Scotland or of Ireland seems uncertain. The references to England are comparatively few, and the events sometimes misplaced by many years, though the compiler, Mr. Hennessy thinks, must have been acquainted with some early work on English history, in addition to Beda and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which has not come down to us.

Battles, burnings, murders, and deaths of

anchorites and saints, seem to be the staple subjects of its pages. Indeed, so many of those whose names are here transmitted to us died either by battle or violence, that it is really refreshing when we come to a cleric who *quietit* or *dormivit*, or a lucky layman of whom it is simply recorded that *mortuus est*—in other words, died a natural death. As those were ages, too, of a credulity which the early Christian institutions of Erin seem to have done little or nothing to surmount, miracles and marvels are largely interspersed—such, for example, as cases of infants speaking at a moment's notice, showers of blood falling from the heavens, and the waters of the lakes being turned into blood,—the two latter instances being simply distorted accounts of what were natural phenomena, no doubt.

As a sample of active—too active—Irish life in those times, we give the following in confirmation of what we have above stated, A.D. 677–8,—the work of two years:—

"Burning of the Kings in Dun Cethirn; viz., Dungal, son of Scannal, King of the Cruithne, and Cennfaeladh, son of Sublime, King of Cianachta, in the beginning of summer, by Maelduin, son of Maelfitrich. Ciar, daughter of Dubhrean *quietit*. The battle of Bla Sliabh, afterwards, in the beginning of winter, in which Maelduin, son of Maelfitrich, was slain by the Cianachta of Gleann Geimhin . . . *Jugulatio* of Conall, son of Dunehadh, at Cann tire. *Jugulatio* of Sechnasach . . . and of Censis, son of Cougal. *Jugulatio* of Cennfaeladh, son of Colga, King of Connacht. Ulcha Derg Ua Caillaide slew him. The battle of Rathmor of Magh line, against the Britons, in which fell Cathasach, son of Maelduin, King of the Cruithne, and Ultan, son of Dicuill."

In the following account of a marvel (A.D. 900), in page 177, from the length of the so-called "woman," and the extent of her hair, one could almost imagine the sea-serpent of our day to be foreshadowed, with the pale ash-colour, and the never-failing "flowing mane" of the modern describers:—

"A large woman was cast ashore by the sea in Alba, viz., her length was 9 score and 12 feet; six feet between her two paps; the length of her hair was 15 feet; the length of the fingers of her hands was 6 feet; the length of her nose was 7 feet; whiter than a swan, or the foam of the wave, was every part of her."

In page 216, *s. an. 964*, we have the earliest record extant, as Mr. Hennessy remarks, of the erection of a Round Tower in Ireland; that of Tomgraney, in Clare; of which, however, at the present day, not a vestige exists: *s. an. 1120*, we find a mention, also, of the completion of the Round Tower, or belfry, of Clonmacnois, Abbot Gillachrist contributing thereto, who, as before noticed, is supposed to have been the writer of the Chronicle under notice.

The passage in p. 108, "*In hoc anno Beda fecit Librum de Natura Rerum et Temporibus et in pagia. et in figell.*," which the editor looks upon as unintelligible (pp. xlix, 110) in reference to its concluding words, is by no means free from doubt, certainly; but we are strongly inclined to believe the meaning to be, that Beda wrote the works in question in the two forms of a paged book and of a scroll; "*figellum*" (from *figo*, "to fix") being, not improbably, a now lost name for the staff, or wand, round which the scroll (*volumen*) was rolled, and to which, at the extremity, it was fixed. This supposition, it seems to us, is strengthened by the fact, that in his work, '*De Temporibus*', Beda actually does speak of it as "*hoc volumen*"; while he alludes there to the '*De Natura Rerum*' as a "*liber*," or "book," in the words "*superiore libro*."

The general rule, we believe, in the case of the Rolls publications is, that the text be unaccompanied with note or comment. The present volume, with its abundant notes, very properly forms an exception to the rule; for without them, to all, except the select few whose fortune or taste it has been to study early Irish history, and the language of that country in the Middle Ages, the context, even though elucidated, as it is, by a careful translation, would, in many instances, from its inherent obscurities, be little more than a dead letter.

No pains evidently have been spared upon this volume; it is at once highly creditable to its editor, and a valuable accession to a series from which the history of the United Kingdom will have to be re-written one of these days.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*Vittoria*. By George Meredith. 3 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

'Vittoria' is the continuation of a work by the same author, published some years ago, called 'Emilia in England.' The same characters are introduced; but, with the exception of Emilia herself, who is again the heroine, under the name of Vittoria, the leading personages of the former novel are mere accessories to the present story. Wilfred Pole, who was Emilia's lover, and who did not behave very chivalrously, is, as Wilfred Pierson, a lieutenant in the Austrian service, a useful subordinate in the drama. The present novel is the whole drama of the Italian rising in 1848, carried along from its outbreak until the fatal battle of Novara. The work evinces knowledge on the part of the author of Italian life as well as of Italian revolutionary politics. All the documents, letters, intentions, and counter-intentions, of the centres and head-centres of the revolution, seem to have been laid at the author's disposal, and he, to judge by the result in his book, must have made a good use of them. The seething and surging of the revolutionary movement are well caught; but the reader is lost in the maze of events, and confused by the movements hither and thither of the excited actors, both Austrian and Italian. There are dramas within dramas; hopes and fears, loves and hatreds, private and political; the movements of armies; "trumpets, alarms, excursions and retreats," battles, single combats, not a few duels,—to say nothing of the histories, tales and reports told by one person to others with the vehemence of intense personality. The personages of the drama, or rather panoramas, get incidentally involved in events, which are life or death to the parties concerned, but which have only a slight bearing on the fortunes of the story. Such is Wilfred Pierson's night adventure, when he is forced to enter a house to assist the Austrian lover of an Italian lady to escape from the men who have surrounded the house to kill him as he comes out. No mortal memory can keep in mind the Lauras, the Amalias, the Leckensteins, the Violettas, the Austrians pure and simple, the Austrianized Italians, the prudent Italians, the patriots, the conspirators. Opera politics and intrigues are superadded; for is there not a Signora Irma de Karski, a rival *prima donna*, who hates Vittoria as a woman and a singer! How are human beings with limited faculties to understand all the distracting threads of this unmerciful novel? But, then, by way of compensation, each episode has its own interest, and the most insignificant personage has the stamp of being genuine human being, and not a lay figure. One of the best and most individual portraits is that of Barto Rizzo, the conspirator. He is the type of the man who cares for his own way, and who will sacrifice a cause to his own prejudices; yet he is honest and energetic, if untractable and perverse, and doing more mischief than good. Luighi, the spy, is also an excellent sketch of a supple Italian, with a turn for roguery, and yet capable of honesty when his heart is touched. The first scene between Luighi and Barto Rizzo is a comedy containing the germs of a tragedy, which is worked out to the sorrowful end. Vittoria has been chosen to make her *début* at La Scala, in an opera written by her lover, Count Carlo Ammiani, which is full of revolutionary meaning, but so veiled that it has passed the Censorship; but in the end she is to sing a patriotic song, not set down in the libretto, which is to be the signal for the insurrection in Milan. There are signals all over the country, by which the rising is to be simultaneous. All is arranged, and all is going well, when Vittoria recognizes some English visitors, her old English friends, and their brother Wilfred, now an Austrian officer. In her desire to save them from the terror and confusion of the outbreak, she writes a letter of warning to Wilfred, not unlike the famous one sent in the Guy Fawkes conspiracy, and which, according to popular tradition, led to the discovery of the plot. This comes to the knowledge of Barto Rizzo, who takes his own measures to secure the letter, and having read it, he denounces Vittoria as a traitress. The rising is put off; the whole plan is thrown into confusion—some wishing to go on, others to draw back. Signor Antonio Pericles, the Greek fanatic for music, whom the readers of 'Emilia in England' have met before, institutes a small plot of his own, to have her carried off to an Austrian fortress, where she will be kept safe and out of mischief. There is much complication about this little plot, and it has fibres which extend far and wide, and eventually it has serious results. The Austrian authorities are on the alert, the city is in a ferment. Vittoria appears, carries the house by storm, sings the patriotic song, and, rousing the people to madness, she has to be smuggled out of the city, for the Austrians dare not seize her; but the insurrection that had been planned for that night has collapsed. Vittoria wanders about in the most perplexing manner, finding herself in Turin with Charles Albert, following his army, helping the wounded on the field of battle, carried off once more by the amusing Signor Pericles, whose distraction at the carelessness with which she risks the loss of her voice is a comic relief. She meets her lover, and has an interview with him on a battle-field. Then she is spirited away again—Barto Rizzo doing mischief all the time, and other enemies and false friends working at cross-purposes. There is an excellent and spirited account of the campaign—the brief success, the bright hopes, the final failure. Carlo and Vittoria are married, live together a few happy months, and then in another unsuccessful conspiracy Carlo falls—a victim to the insane suspicion of Barto Rizzo. Wilfred Pierson, who has done good service as a patient ass, marries the Austrian lady to whom he was betrothed. Vittoria lives like a heroine, and brings up her young son to be a hero, and the curtain drops on the end of the first Italian deliverance in 1858. The book is well and carefully written, though the affectations of style and speech are many and various. There is an air of effort, which gives a sense of fatigue to the reader, greater even than the marches and counter-marches, the journeys, flights and returns; but the book is a piece of good and honest hard work. For such as care

to hear about the state of Italy and the Italians in the last years of Austrian rule, 'Vittoria' will be a book they can read.

*The Love that Kills: a Novel.* By W. G. Wills. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

THAT this novel has been written for the instruction no less than the amusement of the world, readers are informed by the prefatory announcement, in which Mr. Wills, distrustful of their ability to discover for themselves the nature and objects of the entertainment put before them, is at considerable pains to state the purport of his labour. "In the following pages I have endeavoured to effect a double purpose. First, to analyze the course of the strongest passion of our nature—love, in its most sinister form, when inflamed by jealousy, and, in this instance, partaking of insanity, owing to physical injury. Secondly, I have endeavoured to pass before the reader a panorama of facts, embodying the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland, certain annals of the famine, and a history of the rebellion of 1848." Whether this anxiety to explain his story indicates on the author's part a significant degree of distrust with respect to the power of the story to explain itself, is a question on which there is no need to enter. It is enough to say, that the incongruous endeavours, on which Mr. Wills has expended a considerable amount of imaginative power and artistic ability, fail to accomplish the first aim of every novel. Here and there 'The Love that Kills' is unquestionably entertaining, and in one or two places it touches the reader's deeper thought and finer sentiment; but upon the whole to read it is a labour in which but few persons will delight. Were it the first novel of an unknown author, we should mention it in more favourable terms; but as the production of a writer who has done much better work, it disappoints hope and provokes expostulation. Using the harsh word in a restricted sense, we are inclined to attribute the novelist's failure to want of honesty. At least one-half of his book is taken up with attempts to make wild and morbid fancies pass current as the genuine results of an intelligent examination of social and moral phenomena; and it is needless to say that, even when they are most noticeable for subtlety and force, these insincere efforts fall far short of artistic triumph. So long as Mr. Wills is true to himself, and faithfully utters the knowledge that has come to him from personal experience, he is effective in no common degree; but as soon as he travels beyond the domain of his personal experience, and attempts to describe society with which he has no familiarity, or to deal with mental phenomena on which he has never expended scientific observation, he falls into the errors and must be content to reap the reward of those spasmodic poets who, some few years since, were no less astonished than pained by the laughter of a public too clever to be tricked by mere charlatany.

The better portions of the story appear in the first volume, which introduces the reader to Rathmount, some few miles from Waterford, where the eye catches the bright surface of "the broad river Suir, curving away like a bright scythe suspended in its stroke, as if about to sweep through the woods above it, and lay them swathe on swathe." Very cleverly does the writer indicate the sources of misery and crime that make the social life of the district as hideously repulsive as its scenery is bright and alluring; and he displays skill and poetic insight of no ordinary kind in the passages which place the old, failing, debt-encumbered squire of Rathmount in contrast with

his young, selfish, overbearing son. The relations subsisting between the father and son—the father, whose extravagance has reduced a noble estate to bankruptcy, a noble family to shame; the son, whose not unreasonable contempt for his sire is qualified by no compassion for the old man's mental anguish and physical decay—are set forth with such dexterity and judicial fairness, that whilst we shrink from the younger Armstrong's unfilial harshness, we cannot denounce it as altogether indefensible; and whilst we accord a generous pity to the older Armstrong, it never for a moment escapes us that his humiliation and misfortune are natural consequences of his own misconduct, which has been no less calamitous to others than to himself. Excellent also are the delineations of Father Clayton, the Catholic priest, and the younger Clayton's reminiscences of a boyhood spent under the guardianship of his pious uncle, and in dangerous intimacy with Jack Sedge the poacher. But when Mr. Wills has firmly taken hold of his readers by the strength and suggestive pathos of his opening chapters, he wantonly throws up all the advantageous results of meritorious labour, and works away as though he had conceived a perverse ambition to show how very tedious clever writing may be when its cleverness is misdirected. So long as the reader is permitted to hope that Willie Clayton will fulfil the promise of his opening manhood, and do good work for the Irish peasantry, the story is more or less commendable; but when the young agent surrenders himself to an insane passion for his employer's destined bride, Miss Rae, of Coneyell, and becomes the hero of a very improbable and highly melo-dramatic love-tale, his fortunes cease to interest bystanders, and long before he has quitted his native land and established himself in Paris, where he allies himself with congenial visionaries and malecontents, he proves himself that dearest of all dreary companions, a loquacious and dogmatic bore.

*Gwendoline: a Novel.* By a Septuagenarian. (Nisbet & Co.)

SURELY this Septuagenarian has made a mistake about his age. He must be ninety, at least. 'Gwendoline' is a religious, fashionable, and severely respectable book; but religious people will find it too dull,—fashionable people, will hold it to be too decorous,—and severely respectable people will fall asleep over its harmless pages. The Septuagenarian should turn his attention to agriculture, or some other pursuit in which prosperous virtue on the down-hill of life may achieve distinction and promote the interests of society. Unless we are greatly mistaken, literature, should he persist in it, will prove a costlier amusement than a model farm.

*The Authorship of Shakespeare.* By Nathaniel Holmes. (New York, Hurd & Co.; London, Low & Co.)

UNLESS a time shall come when paradox and paradoxers will have ceased out of the land, it is highly improbable that so splendid a paradox as the authorship of Shakespeare's Plays, now that it has taken possession of a section of the insane literary public, can ever be allowed to drop. The sarcasms which met Miss Delia Bacon's elaborate trifling and Mr. Smith's intemperate violence have not deterred a riper student and more careful writer from following in their steps. These sarcasms, it would seem, could not kill the whimsey that Shakespeare was not himself, but some other man; probably Lord Bacon, possibly Sir Walter Raleigh. The lady was kindly entreated; the gentleman was

roughly handled. Many persons, otherwise soft of heart, could not be persuaded to keep terms with people who, on no particular ground, essayed to upset one of their cherished beliefs. It is no easy thing to float against the tide; and a man who sets his face against the current of public thought must be well assured of his powers. Miss Delia Bacon had a good deal of enthusiasm and a fair share of reading in the books available for her purpose. Mr. Smith was less plentifully endowed; but in the third champion of Lord Bacon's claims to be the secret writer of 'Hamlet' and 'Macbeth' we have a really logical and well-read man, especially one who has his portion in the literature of Shakspeare's time, and is able to state the difficulties in the way of any ordinary acceptance of the Shakspeare literature as it stands.

These difficulties, which are very great, have been laid down at length in the *Athenæum* more than once. Mr. Nathaniel Holmes is an American gentleman, residing at St. Louis, a long way from the manuscript papers which can alone throw any new light on the subject. He has mastered Miss Delia Bacon's book, also the new edition of Lord Bacon's Works, and 'The Story of Lord Bacon's Life'; and, with the help of a subtle intellect, he has so arranged the mass of evidence tending to separate the two most important lives in English history as to aid in confusing the perception of many persons.

For our own part, we do not care to enter once again into the reasons which induced us to reject, in mass and detail, all the conjectures offered in support of Bacon's authorship of 'Hamlet' and 'Macbeth.'

When we had Miss Bacon's work before us we gave our reasons fully; and, as nothing really new has been found in way of buttress to her argument, we may safely let the discussion lapse; which we do in thorough respect for Mr. Holmes, who, distant student though he be of English literary history, is well aware of what is going on in this country. He takes a perfectly noble and impartial view of Bacon's conduct, both in his relation to Essex and to the administration of justice. But we cannot go forward with him in his theory of Bacon being the secret author of Shakspeare's plays.

*The Electric Telegraph.* By Robert Sabine. (Virtue Brothers.)

THE intention of this book is good. A treatise on Electricity in its applications to Telegraphy was required. There are several books dealing with the subject; amongst others, De La Rue's 'Treatise on Electricity in Theory and Practice,' translated by Mr. C. V. Walker, and Dr. Noad's work on the same subject. Still there remained a want. The electric telegraph is of such vast importance that it demanded a special work, in which the theoretical division should be dealt with clearly but concisely, while the technical details were fully explained. A careful examination of Mr. Sabine's work convinces us that the latter is satisfactorily dealt with, but that the philosophy—so essential to the correct appreciation of the ingenious applications of this subtle power—has been imperfectly understood by the author.

We are led to doubt if the constitution of the author's mind is such as would enable him to advance from a consideration of experimental evidences, or of mechanical contrivances, to the philosophical explanation of the principles involved in the phenomena of current electricity, or, indeed, of any of the physical forces. We conceive we have a proof of this in the early pages of this volume.

Commencing with the history and progress of the Electric Telegraph, the author gives, naturally, a notice of the discovery of Galvanism. He tells us that "it is not a rare thing in the annals of science that *mere chance* has suggested some great discovery." Mr. Sabine repeats, in confirmation of his statement, the tales which relate how Madame Galvani was the real discoverer of galvanism, by observing the convulsions of dead frogs when they were—of course accidentally—brought in contact with the conductor of an electrical machine; and in the second place, how Galvani himself saw the twitchings of frogs' legs when they were hung "to an iron balustrade of his house by a hook of copper wire." "Thus," writes our author, "chance rewarded him for his industry by again coming to his aid."

The slightest knowledge of the works of Galvani should have taught this writer that no experimental philosopher ever pursued an elaborate investigation though all its sinuosities with more industry and care than the philosopher of Bologna, who pursued his researches into what he regarded as vital electricity, led onward by the many analogies presented by the electrical fishes of the Mediterranean. By reason, and not by chance, Galvani advanced to the discovery that, merely by the mutual contact of dissimilar bodies, metal, charcoal, and animal matter applied either to each other, or conjoined with fluids, the curious muscular twitchings which he referred to animal electricity could be produced. The beautiful theory of electro-motion invented by the Pavia professor was clouded by the brilliant results which sprang from the more correct explanation of the phenomena produced by the contact of dissimilar metals which Volta gave to the world; but the experiments of Matteucci and others clearly show that Galvani's views must not be too hastily rejected.

So little does Mr. Sabine understand the history of the progress of science, that he appears to believe induction to be a groping in the dark, rewarded occasionally by a chance spark of light. Of the value of deduction he certainly understands nothing. He tells us that the discovery of the decomposition of water by the voltaic current was an accident. "Thus was chance once more on the stage in promoting electrical science, and this time the magnificent investigations of Humphrey Davy were the result." How it was possible for any one who had examined, even cursorily, the several stages in the discovery of the composition of water, with the Cavendish experiment amongst others, to be blind to the natural tendency of those steps, we can scarcely conceive. Electricity had already performed an important part in the investigation; and, when a new form of electrical force presented itself to the modern experimentalists, what more natural than that they should do, exactly what Nicholson and Carlisle did do—namely, direct its action upon water, and thus discover the decomposing power of the voltaic current? As well might Mr. Sabine assert that the decomposition of potash and the discovery of the alkaline metals was a matter of chance; for certainly Davy never predicated the result which he obtained; but that far-seeing philosopher was convinced of the compound nature of the alkalies, and he felt that he had a power at command which would tear their constituents asunder, and so he made the experiment which opened out a vast field of discovery.

Any one who has studied the history of science with proper attention must be convinced that "every great discovery" has been the result of laborious and long-continued thought, and there is no example written on

the pages of science of the discovery of such a truth by chance.

No one with a mind educated to the task of studying the slow steps of induction, and of making from the accumulated evidences a clear deduction, would ever talk of chance leading to the discovery of the law of gravitation, of the galvanic current, or of the decomposing power of electricity.

When any of our readers examine the second part of this work, embracing the "Elements of the Science and Practice of Electric Telegraphy," they are very likely at first to arrive at other conclusions than those which we have given as to the absence of the power necessary to the production of clear deductions. We believe, however, that a careful examination of the earlier sections of Part II. will carry conviction to the mind of the correctness of our surmise. Mr. Sabine is dealing with the "Origin of the Galvanic Current." He states with much clearness the experiments of Pfaff and Grotthuss, and gives, in very few words, the hypotheses of these electricians; but there he stops—adopting their views without further examination, and, therefore, without satisfying the thinking reader. Again and again we discover this peculiarity; and in the practical parts of the book it must be admitted to have its advantages, by keeping the mechanical details clear of all theoretical speculations. There are few points, if any, connected with the practice of electric telegraphy which are not dealt with. Each instrument which is found to possess merit is carefully described. The methods of measurement of the electric current in atmospheric or in earth wires, and in ocean cables, are satisfactorily given. Beyond this, all that experience has taught us respecting the deep-sea lines is accurately recorded. With the small drawback to which we have felt ourselves compelled to draw attention, we commend Mr. Sabine's book to all who are interested in the numerous and often most ingenious arrangements by which that power has been compelled

To tread the oze—

Of the salt deep—

To run upon the sharp wind of the north—

To do me business in the veins o' the earth,  
and convey human thought from land to land,  
regardless alike of distance and of time.

*Ballad Stories of the Affections, from the Scandinavian.* By Robert Buchanan. Illustrated. (Routledge & Sons.)

WE have kept this handsome volume for a couple of months on our table, in order that it may not be confounded with the ordinary prettinesses of the Christmas gift-books.

Mr. Buchanan tells us that he has endeavoured to preserve the character of the originals while he translated these charming and most picturesque ballads from the northern language in which they have remained for ages as precious treasures of vigorous imagination and pathetic force. In a modest and discriminating Preface he thus defines the qualities of these remarkable works, indicates their native character, and marks their peculiar attractions to the sympathetic reader:—"The region to which we are introduced being that of tradition, not of history, we must have plenty of faith if we wish to be happy there. Everything we see is colossal, things as well as men being fashioned on a gigantic scale. The adventurous nature burns fierce as fire, lives fall thickly as leaves in harvest, and the heroes sweep hither and thither, strong as the sword-blow, bright as the sword-flash. Two powers exist—physical strength and the command of the supernatural. Again and again, however, we leave the battlefield and come upon 'places of nestling green,'

where dwell those gentle emotions which belong to all time and are universal. We have love-making, ploughing and tilling, drinking and singing. At every step we meet a beautiful maiden, frequently unfortunate, generally in love, and invariably with golden hair." Even with the humorous conclusion to this paragraph we recognize in it a very apt and happy definition of the matter to which Mr. Buchanan now introduces us. In all such works there is rude strength and profound sense of tragical terror and burning wrath or love. Occasionally, the modes of expressing these qualities are incomplete and even uncouth; at other times they are wrought with a painful intensity of sentiment, which is, as our author says, "strong as the sword-blow, bright as the sword-flash." This intensity seems to leave little room for humour, unless it be, and that is rarely, found in almost cruel exultation over fallen foes, or the triumph of the unmerciful outwit of wiles that may have been spread to snare him in battle as in love. The directness of the outspoken nature of these singularly effective verses marks at once their origin and the fidelity with which Mr. Buchanan has reproduced the style of ballad-poetry of Scandinavia. The qualities above described as peculiar to this order of verse are rendered here with singular felicity; in addition, we cannot fail to discover a finish, which is generally absent from the originals, but rather, as a sword is stronger for being polished, improves their strength than otherwise.

Where so many are beautiful and complete, and so rich in narrative as to be rather continuous galleries of pictures, or panoramas of human passion than "poems," in the common sense of the term, it is hard to find an example which is not too long to be quoted entire, or discontinuous enough to allow of breaking up. Were it otherwise, we should gratify our readers by quoting at length that dramatic and suggestive minor epic in ballad metre, '*Axel and Warborg*,' which is as fine a story as was ever told in spirit-stirring lines. Nevertheless, the student will thank us for the following sorrowful song:—

Helga sits at her chamber door—

God only my heart from sorrows can sever!

She seweth the same seam o'er and o'er.

Let me tell of the sorrow that lies for ever!

What she should work with golden thread,

She works alway with silk instead;

What her fingers with silk should sew,

She works alway with the gold, I trow.

One whispereth in the ear of the Queen,

"Helga is sewing morning and e'en!"

Her seam is wildly and blindly done;

Down on the seam her tear-drops run!"

The good Queen hearkens wonderingly:

In at the chamber-door goes she.

"Hearken unto me, little one!

Why is thy seam so wildly done?"

"My seam is wild and my work is mad,

Because my heart is so sad—so sad!

My father was a King so good—

Fifty knights at his table stood.

My father let me sew and spin.

Twelve knights each strove my love to win:

Eleven wooed me as lovers may,

The twelfth he stole my heart away;

And he who wed me was Hildebrand,

Son to a King of Engeland.

Scarce did we our castle gain,

When the news was to my father ta'en.

My father summoned his followers then:

"Up, up! and arm ye, my merry men!

Don your breastplates and helmets bright,

For Hildebrand is a fiend in fight!"

They knocked at the door with mailed hand:

"Arise and hither, Sir Hildebrand!"

Sir Hildebrand kissed me tenderly:

"Name not my name, an thou lovest me;

Even if I bleeding be,

Name me never till life doth flee!"

Out at the door sprang Hildebrand,  
His good sword glistening in his hand,  
And ere the lips could mutter a prayer,  
Slew my five brothers with golden hair.  
Only the youngest slew not he—  
My youngest brother so dear to me.  
Then cried I loud, 'Sir Hildebrand,  
In the name of our Lady, stay thy hand!  
Oh, spare the youngest, that he may ride  
With the bitter news to my mother's side!'  
Scarce were the words uttered,  
When Sir Hildebrand fell bleeding and dead.  
To his saddle my brother, fierce and cold,  
Tied me that night by my tresses of gold.  
Over valley and hill he speeds;  
With thorns and brambles my body bleeds.  
Over valley and hill we fleet;  
The sharp stones stick in my tender feet.  
Through deep fords the horse can swim;  
He drags me choking after him.  
We came unto the castle great;  
My mother stood weeping at the gate.  
My brother built a tower forlorn,  
And paved it over with flint and thorn;  
My cruel brother placed me there,  
With only my silken sarc to wear.  
Whene'er I moved in my tower forlorn,  
My feet were pierced with the sharp, sharp thorn.  
Whene'er I slept on the stones,  
Aches and pains were in all my bones.  
My brother would torture me twentyfold;  
But my mother begged I might be sold.  
A clock was the price they took for me—  
It hangs on the Kirk of our Ladie.  
And when the clock on the kirk chimed first,  
The heart of my mother aunder burst."

Ere Helga all her tale hath said,  
(God only my heart from sorrow can sever!)  
On the arm of the Queen she is lying dead.  
(Let me tell of the sorrow that lives for ever!)

We could help the lover of pathetic verse, who enjoys also raciness of a fresh manner in poetry, to a capital picture of gnome-life and spitefulness, human love and victory, if it would be fair to transfer from these pages the whole of the admirable 'Wee, wee Gnome,'—a poem which tells of the revenge of the earthy folk upon one who hewed down trees above their dolorous dwellings—

The gumble gnomes in the hill that dwelt,  
Gumbled and gathered in crowd;  
They cried, while he felled his posts and staves,  
"Who it is knock so loud?"

Then up and spake the smallest gnome,—  
Small as a mouse was he,—  
"It is a Christian man that knocks,  
I know it certainlie!"

With all its quaint telluric twang, that leaves, so to say, a sense of metal on the palate, and its almost subterranean undertone, or "air," the conclusion to this poem flashes as splendidly with happiness as metals when dug from the mine may flash in the sun. To the opening the termination is a complete anti-climax of the most fortunate sort. We may further call the student's attention to 'Agnes,' as a felicitous garland of verses of a character different from the above, having, moreover, a tale enshrined, which, if he did not invent it, Mr. Buchanan's genius could only improve before he dressed it so elegantly. 'Young Axelvold'—the story of the birth of a king's daughter's son—might stand beside the finest old ballad that is known to us, and keep its place without difficulty in respect to some qualities that are characteristic of this order of poesy. 'The Bonnie Groom'—showing how a noble damsel played with such a one, and lost all before she was won—has the ring of ancient metal, as well as the sudden turns and wafts of feeling which Mr. Buchanan has rightly noted to belong to northern ballad literature. It would be impossible to illustrate the class more aptly than by this dashing and striking poem.

We have thus referred to this excellent collection of fanciful images, strange turns of invention and intensely dramatic pictures, in order to express our sense of the author's good

fortune in putting so many treasures before the public; the latter will welcome his success with a new sense of pleasure and obligation to one who has so often done well in his own person. As to the eminently picturesque illustrations, for which the author is indebted to Messrs. G. J. Pinwell, A. B. Houghton, J. D. Watson and others, the best thing we can say for them is, that with a few rather mannered exceptions, they are worthy of the subjects. Those to 'Signelil the Serving Maiden,' 'Helga and Hildebrand,' 'How Sir Tonne won his Bride,' 'Young Axelvold,' and 'Axel and Warborg,' are the best and happiest pictures in this book.

#### LONDON CHARITIES.

[Second Article.]

"There is no abuse so great in civil society," says Hume, "as not to be attended with a variety of beneficial consequences; and, in the beginnings of reformation, the loss of these advantages is always felt very sensibly, while the benefit resulting from the change is the slow effect of time."

The suppression of monastic institutions, however favourable in the main to the general interest, was, undoubtedly, attended with many immediate ill effects on the condition of the people. The monasteries and convents were a sure resource in periods of distress to the poor and indigent. The suppression, first of the lesser, and subsequently of the greater monasteries, had the effect not only of throwing on the world the great body of those who were dependent upon alms, but even of making beggars of the monks themselves, and of a large proportion of their tenants and dependents. This consequence had, indeed, been foreseen; and a promise had been made that the evil should be provided for. Out of the revenues of the monasteries, Henry the Eighth proposed to arm and equip an addition to his army to the extent of 40,000 officers and men; but the promise was never kept: nor, indeed, did the funds at the King's command allow of its performance—so far short did they fall, from various causes, of the amount which it was anticipated would accrue to the revenue as a consequence of the suppression.

Mendicity, therefore, became rife in England during the latter years of Henry the Eighth. In the first instance, it was attempted to meet it by harsh enactments for the restraint of vagrancy. By 22 Hen. 8. c. 12 (1531), Justices were directed to assign poor persons a district in which they might beg, and beyond which they were forbidden to ask alms under pain of being imprisoned, whipped, and kept in the stocks on bread and water. This Act being of no effect in repressing vagrancy, another was passed in 1536 (27 Hen. 8. c. 25), which authorized the head officers of corporate towns and parishes to make collections for the poor, and to maintain them, so that none should be compelled to beg openly. The able-bodied were to be kept to constant labour. Almsgiving beyond the town or parish was prohibited under penalty of ten times the amount given. A "sturdy beggar" was to be whipped the first time he was found begging; to have his right ear cropped off for the second offence; and if again found guilty of begging, was to be "indicted for wandering, loitering, and idleness, and, on conviction, was to suffer execution and death as a felon and an enemy to the commonwealth." The punishments awarded by this statute were even increased in severity by the 1 Edw. 6. c. 3, which adjudged branding and slavery in chains for two years as the punishment of every able-bodied person who did not apply himself to work.

The severity of such enactments as these rendered them ineffective. The fact, however, that such statutes were ever imposed, indicates the condition to which the country was brought, the extent of the disease, and the absolute necessity for a remedy. It is a feature of the time that such laws should have been passed without any attempt being made to apply that remedy in a milder form; and we may see, from the inefficiency of such enactments, how useless it is to attempt to deal with destitution without making some effort to meet the causes which create or aggravate want.

The natural consequences of these severe statutes relating to the poor was a reactionary feeling respecting their treatment. In the earlier years of Edward the Sixth it began to be felt that some provision must be made for the necessities of the poor, especially for the care of the old and the education of the young. Lands belonging to the chantries, and devoted to superstitious purposes, were now set apart for charitable uses. Voluntary collections for the relief of the poor were ordered to be made weekly in every parish. Ministers and churchwardens were required, by Act of Parliament, to exhort their parishioners to acts of charity, and, if they failed of success, the bishop was to admonish those to whom appeals had been made in vain. Above all, in 1553, instigated, as it is said, by Bishop Ridley, King Edward the Sixth appropriated the revenues of the dissolved monasteries in London to the endowment and support of several great national institutions: of Bridewell Hospital for the poor and destitute; of Bethlehem Hospital for lunatics; of Christ's Hospital for orphans and children of parents of limited means; and of St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals for the sick, the wounded, and the maimed.

The example thus set during the last years of the reign of Edward the Sixth bore its fruits very soon after the accession of Elizabeth. By the 5 Eliz. c. 3, any parishioner able and refusing to contribute to the relief of the poor within his parish might be cited by the bishop to appear before the Justices at sessions, who were empowered to tax him at their discretion. By the 14 Eliz., this power of compulsory assessment was vested in the Justices without any intervention on the part of the bishop. At this period of our history, moreover, public benevolence was directed very largely indeed to the endowment of schools, of greater or less pretension, in almost every part of the country. Most of the great grammar-schools of England had their origin in the reigns of Edward and Elizabeth; and there can be little doubt that the desire to give ascendancy to the tenets of the reformed Church was a motive which weighed strongly with their founders. As the country grew rich and prospered under the reformed system, so there seems to have been an increasing desire to supply the wants occasioned by the dissolution of the monastic and conventional establishments, to provide for the poor, and at the same time to attach them to the Church as it had become by law established.

The citizens of London at this period certainly did their duty by their fellow-residents and fellow-subjects. During the reign of Elizabeth, immense properties were devoted by citizens to charitable purposes. The records of the public companies attest the unsparing benevolence of the wealthier portion of the community. The charities of Sir Wolston Dixie, Lord Mayor of London in 1585, may be singled out in illustration. He immortalized himself by his good deeds. During his lifetime every prison and every charitable institution in

London felt his bounty. He added considerably to the endowments of Christ's Hospital; he established fellowships and scholarships at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. At Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire, where he purchased an estate, still in possession of the family, he provided portions for poor maidens on their marriage; and he also founded and endowed a free school, which is still an established institution of the nation. Great as were Sir Wolston's charities, they were even exceeded by those of Dame Mary Ramsay, the relict of Sir Thomas Ramsay, Lord Mayor of London in 1577. This lady devoted, apparently, the greater part of her estate to charitable purposes. She liberated poor debtors from gaols; provided clothing and provisions for maimed soldiers; gave £1,200. to five of the City companies to lend out to young tradesmen, without interest, for periods of four years; provided marriage portions for poor virgins; contributed considerably to Christ's Hospital, the almoners of which she entrusted with the distribution of certain special funds. She also founded and augmented fellowships and scholarships at the universities, established a hospital at Bristol, and by her will left 3,000. to good and pious uses. Such examples show the extent of public beneficence in those times, and the direction in which it was applied.

The Poor Law of the 43rd of Elizabeth, which remained in force until 1834, and which empowered the construction of poor-houses for the impotent poor, by the overseers and churchwardens of every parish, at the cost of the inhabitants, appears to have been considered during the succeeding reigns to have been a sufficient provision for the absolutely destitute. From the time of James the First down to that of Charles the Second, we do not find records of charities to the same extent as during previous reigns. During the time of James the First, the most prominent foundation was the "Scottish Hospital," founded in 1610, "to afford relief to aged Scots, school-fees for their poor children, and free passages back to Scotland for those desirous of returning;" the latter being an object to which it may be imagined that many persons at that period would have been anxious to subscribe. But if Dr. Johnson was right, the claimants on this portion of the charity were not likely to be numerous.

The Charter-House, however, is a foundation of a superior order, which takes its date from the death of Sutton, in the reign of James the First. The charities of Edward Alleyne, the founder of Dulwich College, and of Mr. Marshall, in whose trustees are vested the living of Christ-Church, Blackfriars, also show that the poverty of the outlying portions of the metropolis was not uncared for. Both those benevolent benefactors made substantial provision for the poor of Southwark, and other suburban localities. Immediately after the Restoration, public sympathy was greatly excited by the depressed condition of the clergy of the Church of England, who had been deprived of their benefices during the Civil War. Acts were passed at this period so far modifying the Mortmain laws as to allow of land being appropriated for Church endowments, tithes, &c. And we accordingly find at this time large contributions made towards the improvement of livings, and for the establishment and support of scholastic foundations, chiefly assuming the form of charity-schools. The benevolence of the metropolis, always the seat of charity, seems also to have directed itself to the establishment of almshouses for the aged, of which we have numerous instances handed down to us from this period.

The establishment of "Chelsea Hospital," as a royal hospital and infirmary for poor soldiers, dates from 1681-2, when Charles the Second, by a proclamation, invited "the pecuniary assistance of the clergy and all well-disposed people" in aid of the erection of this hospital. It is stated to have cost 150,000. It was not completed until the time of William and Mary. The "Royal Hospital at Greenwich" dates twelve years after that of Chelsea, when a grant was made of the palace, and nine acres of land, to be converted into an hospital for old and disabled seamen, the widows and children of those who lost their lives in the service, and for the encouragement of navigation. Greenwich Hospital, however, can scarcely be said to have been settled until 1732, when the forfeited estates of the Earl of Derwentwater were granted to it by King George the Second.

The charities of Queen Anne's time were chiefly religious. The "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," just founded, received her earliest support; the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" was originated in the first year of her reign; and the "Bounty Fund," for the maintenance of poor clergy and the augmentation of the smaller livings, was established by Act of Parliament only three years after. Queen Anne herself was so zealously attached to the Church, and so unaffectedly pious, charitable, and compassionate, that if more was not done in her time, it must be attributed to the heat of the prevailing party conflicts, and the engagement of the nation in foreign warfare.

The most remarkable institution which received its origin in the reign of the First George was Guy's Hospital. Its founder, Thomas Guy, was the son of a Thames lighterman, who left him an orphan at the age of eight. In 1660, being then sixteen years old, he was apprenticed to a bookseller in Cheapside; and in 1668, just after the Great Fire, he began business on his own account, in a small shop "near the Stocks' market," at the corner of Cornhill and Lombard Street. He started a profitable trade in Bibles printed in Holland, in opposition to the Bibles published by the King's printer, which were considered, at that time, both imperfect and inferior. Great efforts were made to put down this trade, and Guy, compromising with the monopolists, obtained leave to print Bibles in London, which he did with Dutch types. By the sale of these Bibles he grew rich. In 1719 and 1720 he ventured largely in the South Sea speculations, and made very heavy profits. His 100. shares, purchased at 120., he sold at prices ranging from 300. to 600. With some of these great gains, he purchased land for the erection of the hospital which bears his name, and which was completed very soon after his death, in 1724, when he endowed it with no less a sum than 220,000.

"Belton's Charity" was another legacy of this period which deserves notice. Thomas Belton, in 1723, bequeathed a large property to the Ironmongers' Company — one moiety to be appropriated to the maintenance of schools in London, and the other for the redemption of slaves in Barbary. When there remained no slaves in Barbary to redeem, the Court of Chancery was called upon to declare the purposes of this trust, and it made a decree assigning the property to the support of day-schools throughout England and Wales, the amounts to be apportioned in annual grants of not less than 5l. or more than 20l. This is a very valuable charity. The fund now exceeds 5,000. a year, and is well administered.

"Bancroft's Hospital," a large asylum and school, managed by the Drapers' Company, was

also endowed by a rich citizen of London about this period. It at present supports thirty almsmen and educates more than one hundred children. The "Particular Baptist Fund," for the education of ministers and the assistance of poor churches, was instituted in 1717, and with the exception of the "Redcross Street Institution," a free library for dissenting ministers, appears to be the earliest denominational institution on record.

The example set by Guy bore fruit very shortly after his death. The inhabitants of London began to understand the necessity of further provision for the sick poor than St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's Hospitals had previously afforded. The "Westminster Hospital" was instituted even before "Guy's" had received form. "St. George's Hospital," receiving its name from the family upon the throne, was established in 1733; the "Lock Hospital," in 1739; the "London Hospital," in 1740; the "Middlesex Hospital," in 1745; the "Small Pox Hospital," in 1746; and "St. Luke's," in 1751. These were all most important institutions for the benefit of the London poor, and they all arose within five-and-twenty years after the bequest of Thomas Guy.

In 1739 Capt. Coram established the "Foundling Hospital," and in 1758, a kindred institution arose in the "Magdalen Hospital." Public sympathy at this period appears to have been much directed to the necessity of making better provision for outcast women and orphan children. We find the "Clergy Orphan School" established in 1749; the "Marine Society," for training boys for sea, in 1756; the "Orphan Working School" (no longer, we fear, what its name indicates), in 1758; and the "Female Orphan Asylum," in the same year.

In 1752 Queen Charlotte gave her name and patronage to the "Lying-In Hospital," in the Marylebone Road, the first of another class of institutions. In 1757 a kindred society was established in Blackfriars, under the title of the "Royal Maternity Society," for attending on poor married women at their own homes, within three miles of St. Paul's. Throughout this period the tendency of public benevolence was obviously in favour of a large extension of the public hospitals.

At a somewhat later period of the century a new class of institutions rapidly arose indicating a new phase in the position of the people. The rapid establishment of hospitals would seem to show that, for nearly a century after the Fire of London, in 1666, the medical assistance of the poor at their own domiciles had been very ill provided for. Soon after the accession of George the Third, however, we notice the origination of "Dispensaries," specially organized for the relief and assistance of the sick poor, and attendance on them at their own abodes. These institutions developed themselves very rapidly. They were auxiliaries to the hospitals, which they relieved of many of the minor classes of complaints. They were calculated also to secure the best attention for the sick under those circumstances (at home) in which, with a due degree of aid, the poor were likely to receive the largest amount of consolation. A "Royal General Dispensary," to afford medical and surgical relief gratuitously to the sick poor, and to visit them at their own habitations, was established in Aldersgate, in 1770. A "Westminster General Dispensary" followed in 1774; a "Surrey Dispensary," in 1777; a "London and Westminster Dispensary," in 1778; a "Metropolitan Dispensary," in Cripplegate, in 1779; a "Finsbury Dispensary," in Clerkenwell, in 1780; a "Public Dispensary,"

in Lincoln's Inn Fields, in 1782; an "Eastern Dispensary," in Whitechapel, in the same year; a "Marylebone Dispensary," in 1785; a "Western Dispensary," in 1789; a "City Dispensary," in Queen Street, Cheapside, about the same period. The rapid succession in which these institutions followed one another testifies the public appreciation of the system on which they were established. They all had the same means of general support; namely, annual contributions from householders and employers of labour, who were entitled to send patients from amongst those in their employment in numbers proportionate to the amount of their contributions. Some of these dispensaries were probably originated by medical men, as auxiliaries to their private practice, as many institutions of less valuable character are even at the present day. But (apart from special faults) there are probably few institutions more worthy of support and encouragement than these parochial and district dispensaries, which relieve the sick poor at their own abodes and meet the slighter cases of casual complaint by medicine, prescription or advice.

There appears to have been a general tendency a century ago to meet special wants from special resources. The "Theatrical Funds," for decayed actors and their widows, were instituted—the "Covet Garden Fund" in 1765; the "Drury Lane Fund," in 1776. The royal establishments at this period were a monopoly; but when we consider the large number of persons employed, in very humble capacities, about a theatre, the very little concern they have in its management, the difficulties attending a profession dependent entirely on health, age, taste, public favour, and a vast variety of circumstances to which accident may expose all who are concerned, such institutions as these cannot but be considered praiseworthy. Where they not merely appeal to public support, but rely to some extent upon the provident habits of their own members, they may be considered as additionally entitled to encouragement; for scarcely a year passes without our meeting with cases of deserving persons of this profession reduced, by some fatality, from independence to indigence. The recent cases of destruction of theatres by fire, the loss of the wardrobes of the actors and actresses, the tools of the workpeople, painters, machinists and musicians, and a hundred others, who are necessarily thrown out of employment until the theatre can be restored, illustrate the cases in which the utility of such institutions is undeniable.

A "Small Debts Society" was established in 1772, pointing to an evil which existed to a grievous extent whilst the petty creditor had the power, at any moment of angry feeling, to incarcere a debtor at his pleasure. Till within the last generation this grievance was one which not only weighed heavily on charity, but on the public. It was not only the imprisonment that was wrong, but the forced abstention of the debtor from the means of pursuing those avocations which would have enabled him to relieve himself from debt. From that followed not only his own ruin, but the involvement of his family; and, beyond that, general distrust and a consequent depression of trade. Credit is as good as money, especially in a country where the circulation of money is restricted. But one vindictive creditor, under our old system of imprisonment for debt, had it not only in his power to ruin his debtor and his family, but to sacrifice other tradesmen who had more confidence in the resources, the energy and the responsibilities of an individual. Not only in those days was a tradesman unwilling to trust but a conscientious pur-

chaser was unwilling to deal, except for ready cash, which was even a rarer commodity then than now. Hence a too prevalent feeling of distrust in trade. Whilst purchasers were disinclined to deal with tradesmen whose characters they did not know, tradesmen were opposed to opening accounts even with good customers, for fear that they might be injured by the violence and incaution of their fellows. A great deal of this feeling has extended even to our own day. Although the changes in our laws have inspired more confidence, and although credit is less limited, yet there are many of the best families in the kingdom who rarely extend their purchases beyond the old shops in which their credit is secure and their name respected.

Many charities for special purposes were established about the end of the last century. "Hetherington's" great benefaction for the blind, administered annually by the almoners of Christ's Hospital, was one of these; the "Royal Humane Society" (very insufficiently developed) was another. The "Benevolent or Stranger's Friend Society," instituted in 1785, and now somewhat diverted from its original object, was, no doubt, primarily intended to meet the distresses of foreign refugees and others not entitled to parochial relief. The "Philanthropic Society," for the succour of the children of criminals, is another institution, the funds of which, more or less wisely, have been diverted from the immediate object of the foundation. The "Deaf and Dumb Asylum," founded in 1792, and the "School for the Indigent Blind," established a few years later, afford further illustrations of the desire of the public to meet special wants at the period to which we are referring.

The religious societies of that time were greatly in advance. The "London Missionary Society," established by the Dissenters in 1795, the "Church Missionary Society," established in 1799, and the "Religious Tract Society," founded in the same year, are institutions which have done honour to the religious communities which support them. The amount of good which they have respectively accomplished has been not less the result of their own efforts, than the result of the progress of commerce and of knowledge. Yet with commerce and with knowledge they have gone hand in hand, and without them the extension of commerce and knowledge would have lost a large portion of their good effects.

Such are the institutions which have come down from earlier periods to our own time, and which have laid the foundations for that enormous work of charity which expands around us daily.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*4 Dictionary of Photography.* Edited by Thomas Sutton, B.A., and George Dawson, M.A. Second Edition. (Low & Co.)

THIS book will prove useful to such photographers as may not have an intimate acquaintance with physics and chemistry. It would have been still more useful if the editors had confined themselves to the explanation of terms and substances which strictly belong to the art of photography. Surely, fusible metal, encaustic painting, marking-ink, phosphori, plumbago, saponification, and such like, have little right to a place in this Dictionary. There are many other things introduced, as, for example, "Sepometer—an instrument, invented by Mr. Angus Smith, for determining the amount of organic impurity existing in the atmosphere of towns," which are, by a strained effort, asserted to be of some possible use to the photographer. By these means the size of the Dictionary has been increased, and, as it appears to us, its value diminished. Still, we are bound to state that the photographic artist, or amateur, will find here all that he is likely to

require, whether relating to the theory of photographic phenomena or to the practice of photography as an art.

*The Domestic Circle; or, the Relations, Responsibilities, and Duties of Home.* By the Rev. John Thomson. (Edinburgh, Johnstone, Hunter & Co.; London, Hamilton, Adams & Co.)

Mr. Thomson's book is divided into twelve chapters, entitled 'The Head of the Family,' 'The Wife,' 'The Husband,' 'The Children,' 'The Young Men,' 'The Young Women,' 'The Servants,' 'The Masters and Mistresses,' 'The Widow and Fatherless,' 'The Family Sabbath,' 'The Family Altar,' 'The Family Bond—Love.' By carefully observing the directions of this dictionary of social duties, ordinary people may make themselves very useful and creditable members of society; but, unfortunately, no one will accept it as a chart for life's journey until he has set his affections upon respectable things, and can shape his own course in the right direction without Mr. Thomson's assistance. The author may be commended for writing with good sense and with a good purpose.

*First Steps in the Better Path.* By the Authoress of 'Jane Hudson,' &c. With Coloured Illustrations. (Warne & Co.)

THESE moral stories, for children in the humbler ranks of life, are not without merit. Much cannot, however, be said in behalf of their coloured illustrations, the producers of which are herewith enjoined to take their first steps in a better path.

*Labour and Wait; or, Evelyn's Story.* By Emma Jane Worboise. 2 vols. (Houlston & Wright.)

WHY did not Miss Worboise publish this story last children's season? Perhaps it was not ready. Why, then, has she decided not to keep it till the close of the year, when we shall be in the humour to give our most amiable attention to a fresh shower of tales for young people? 'Labour and Wait' is something too heavily laden with moral purpose and religious reflection; but it may be recommended for young ladies of a serious turn of mind as a medicine that may suit their complaint, and cannot do them any harm. Its only great fault is its immoderate length. Stories for girls should be cut to match their skirts.

*Disenchanted, and other Tales.* By Harriet Power. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

OF the four milk-and-water tales which make up this volume, the first and most important concerns a certain "fascinating Diana Kingston," who disengaged a chosen and beloved admirer by her display of personal vanity in dyeing her naturally dark hair so that it assumed the fashionable golden colour. "Can we say the same for Diana?" the story concludes. "Alas, no. The ceremony which united her to the gay, wealthy, and handsome Marquis was magnificent; her dress, the perfection of a bridal costume; while the golden tresses, which lost her the heart of the only man she ever cared for, gleamed through a costly veil, the bridegroom's gift; but, though she had trained her lips to smile, there was no answering gleam in her eye, which, to a discerning glance, wore a look, half restless, half defiant, as if, her heart's wish being denied her, she was determined to follow recklessly a happiness of her own seeking. She has carried out her desire in one particular, at all events, which was that her wedding should take place before that of Allan, in order to show her utter indifference to the fact of her marriage." Need we say that a volume written throughout in this style is not calculated to fulfil the promise of its author's name and become a social power?

We have to announce the following pamphlets: *Ireland's Church Property, and the Right Use of It,* by Aubrey de Vere (Longmans).—*Extracts from Reviews of the First Edition of the Church and the World; Essays on Questions of the Day,* by various Writers. Edited by the Rev. Orby Shipley, M.A. (Longmans).—*The Church Settlement of Ireland; or, Hibernian Pancanda,* by Aubrey de Vere (Longmans).—*A Charge delivered on the Banks of the River Niger, in West Africa, 1866,* by the Right Rev. Samuel Ajai Crowther, D.D., Native Missionary Bishop (Seeley).—*A Pan-Anglican Synod:* a Sermon preached at the general

Ordination held by the Lord Bishop of Oxford on Sunday, December 23, 1866, by Francis Fulford, D.D. (Kingtons),—*English Church Hymnody: a Lecture read at the Church Congress, by Sir Roundell Palmer (Macmillan)*,—*A Charge delivered to the Diocese of Oxford, at his Seventh Visitation, in December, 1866*, by Samuel, Lord Bishop of Oxford (Parker),—*A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the United Dioceses of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin*, by James O'Brien, D.D. (Macmillan),—*Human Immortality and Kindred Topics viewed in Connexion with Modern Spiritualism and its Philosophy*, by William Smitton (Burns),—*The Fourth Standard Bible-Reader, for Sunday Schools and Families* (Marshall),—*Theory of Influence*, by W. H. Brown (Millin, & Potter),—*The True Limits of Rubrical or Ceremonial Revival in Divine Service: a Paper read by the Rev. F. S. Bolton, B.D. (Parker)*,—*The Cross the Christian's Greatest Glory*, by John Dunlop (Ringwood, Wheaton),—*The Proposed British North-American Confederation: why it should not be imposed upon the Colonies by Imperial Legislation*, by Edward Goff (Penny),—*British America: Arguments against a Union of the Provinces Reviewed, with further Reasons for Confederation*, by the Hon. J. McCullly, Q.C. (Algar),—*The Policy of the Future in India: a Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Cranborne*, by William Knighton (Longmans),—*Proposition for a new Reform Bill, to fairly Represent the Interests of the People*, by W. F. Stanley (Simpkin),—*The Rock Ahead: a few Thoughts on Parliamentary Reform, the Claims of the Working Classes, Democracy, and the Wants and Prospects of the Future* (Blackwood),—*Suggestions for a Reform Bill: a Letter to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby*, by A. Douglas Hamilton (Stanford),—*Fourth Annual Report of the Directors of the Union League of Philadelphia*,—*The Claim of English-women to the Suffrage constitutionally considered* (Trübner),—*Hints on the Principles of Self-Government, and their Application to Parliamentary Reform*, by Richard Varden (Stanford),—*Europe Incapable of American Democracy: an Outline Tracing of the Irreversible Course of Constitutional History*, by the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P. (Stanford),—*In Memoriam, Stephen Elliott, General, C.S.A.*, by the Hon. William Henry Preston (Saunders & Otley).

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

A "Fox's Tale," a Sketch of the Hunting Field, r. 8vo. 1/- swd.  
Adye's Sitana, a Mountain Campaign in Afghanistan, 8vo. 8/- cl.  
Ancient Urns in Appropriate Metres, selected by Haystope, 7/- cl.  
Ash's The Sorrows of Hypsipyle, 12mo. 3/- cl.  
Bacon's The Great Work, post 8vo. 9/- cl.  
Baker's The Albert Nyanza, 3 vols. 8vo. 16/- cl.  
Bell's Rough Notes, by an Old Soldier, 2 vols. 8vo. 21/- cl.  
Book (The) of Knots, Treatise on Cordage, 2/- cl.  
Bridger's Index to Pedigrees in County Histories, &c., 8vo. 10/- cl.  
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, Vol. 3, royal 8vo. 10/- cl.  
De Vere's Studies in English, post 8vo. 10/- cl.  
Dish of Goosefip off the Willow Pattern, &c., 1/- swd.  
Duncan (Mary B. M.), "Under the Shadow," cr. 8vo. 4/- cl.  
Eco Homo, new ed. fcap. 8vo. 6/- cl.  
Edinburgh Review, post 8vo. 2/- cl.  
Edu's Lady's Glimpses of late War in Bohemia, cr. 8vo. 10/- cl.  
Ellis's Madagascar Revisited, Illust. 8vo. 16/- cl.  
Franc's Emily's Choice: an Australian Tale, 12mo. 5/- cl.  
Ley's The Story of the Potato, 12mo. 10/- cl.  
Linton's Sowing the Wind, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31/- cl.  
M'Leod's Scripture Meteorology and Modern Science, 12mo. 3/- cl.  
Norm and Archibald Lee, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31/- cl.  
Palmer's Oriental Mysteries, 12mo. 3/- cl.  
Pawson's The Autobiography of Major Kent," ed. Stanley, 5/-  
Pedley's Practical Housekeeping, 12mo. 1/- bds.  
Polling's Half Round the Old World, 8vo. 14/- cl.  
Purnell's Literature and its Professors, post 8vo. 7/- cl.  
Sacred Music for Home Circle, edit. Thorne, ob. 1/- cl.  
Salter's The Slave, 12mo. 10/- cl.  
Seafield's Extraordinary Dreams, 8vo. 1/- swd.  
Shakspeare, some Notes on his Character and Writings, 8vo. 4/- cl.  
Shaw's Domestic Medicine, 2mo. 2/- cl.  
Slater's The Wall of the Vatican, 12mo. 5/- cl.  
Smith's The Slave, 12mo. 10/- cl.  
Sporting Incidents of another Tom, Smith post 8vo. 8/- cl.  
Stratten's The Intermediate State, or, 8vo. 3/2 cl.  
Sutton's Painting in Oil Colours upon Paper, 12mo. 1/- swd.  
Thousand and One Gems of British Poetry, selected by Mackay, 3/6 cl.  
Trotter's The Art of Dressing, 8vo. 1/- swd.  
Wurtz's Introduction to Chemical Philosophy, 12mo. 3/- cl.  
Yonge's History of France under the Bourbons, Vol. 3 and 4, 30/-

## ENGLISH COPYRIGHT.

February 19, 1867.

THE sustained comments in the *Athenæum* on the proceedings in copyright cases will surely, at no distant period, lead to legislative amendment of the law. The recent photographic cases illustrate the value of a suggestion I made to Mr. Black two or three years ago, that there should be a provision for summary conviction before a magistrate—say to the amount of 5/-, so that a complainant content

with this amount of atonement—and damages in copyright cases are generally for nominal amounts—might give the defendant the alternative of paying the fine or undergoing a month's imprisonment in a house of correction. I believe this one change in the law would stop the manufacture and importation of piratical prints.

How any difficulty arose in Mr. Lacy's case I am at a loss to comprehend. No enactment in the Representation Act is clearer than the clause which declares that representation shall not pass without mention in direct terms—that a general assignment of copyright shall not include the right of representation. This clause must have escaped attention at the trial. The Judges, learned as they are in law, cannot be expected to have every clause of every statute in their recollection; but it is surely the duty of counsel to read up the law and authorities applicable to his case; and, if counsel had only placed this clause of the Representation Act under the observation of the Judge, it must have been seen that, if Mr. Lacy had not expressly conveyed his representation, he had in law retained it.

By the time Messrs. Boovey & Wood have distributed a thousand pounds among the lawyers, they will probably find out that a full score does contain the essentials of a piano-forte arrangement, and that a sound musician would be expected to see and be able to detach it. G. H. DAVIDSON.

## THE DARIEN CANAL LINE.

20, North Cumberland Street, Dublin, Feb. 16, 1867.

As a party is, I understand, now being organized in London for the purpose of surveying the ship canal line across the Isthmus of Darien, it may not be irrelevant to mention that the *New York Herald* of January 21 announces the arrival at Panama of a party of explorers and surveyors sent by the United States Government to make a thorough exploration, and, afterwards, a survey of the country from Caledonia Harbour to the river Savana and the Gulf of San Miguel. That line was selected upon the recommendation of Rear-Admiral C. H. Davis, the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, who, in his report to the Secretary of the Navy on Inter-Oceanic Communication, of which an abstract was published in the *New York Herald* of December 26, pronounces it to be the only one practicable for a ship canal. The Admiral impartially states its principal features, condemns the very unsatisfactory attempt at an exploration made in 1854, and ascribes to me the merit of being the first to explore it. It is to be regretted, however, that he had not seen the plans, the detailed description of the line, with the compass courses and distances from point to point along it, the memoranda for the guidance of explorers, and Commander Parsons' "Survey of Caledonia Harbour and Port Escoyes, 1854," which I forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy at Washington, through Mr. Dallas, in 1857; together with an offer to guide a party over the lowest ground between the Atlantic and Pacific, with secure, deep, and capacious harbours at each terminus.

I have, therefore, again forwarded to the United States Government a full description of the line, for transmission to the commander of the exploring party, so that, should he fail in the first attempt, he may make a second and successful one by shaping his course in accordance with it. Some months ago I sent information to the same effect to the Admiralty; and on the 20th of November I furnished Lord Stanley with a statement of the direction and manner in which a survey should be made.

I have, then, done all in my power to facilitate the examination of the country, and have, moreover, offered to conduct an exploration; for my capacity to bring which to a successful issue the extensive researches that I made in the interior of Demerara and all over Guiana, from the Orinoco to the Amazon, between the years 1841 and 1844, and in New Granada and other parts of South and Central America since 1850, ought to be a sufficient guarantee.

If, however, persons totally inexperienced in exploring tropical forests, and ignorant of the topography of the tract in question, will refuse my offers

of assistance in guiding them (as the commander of the expedition of 1854 did), they must not lay the blame on me, nor try to throw discredit on the project, if they fail to find their way, or perchance, lose themselves in the bush. E. CULLEN, M.D.

## SHAKSPEARE'S SONNETS.

Moffat, N.B., Feb. 18, 1867.

In your impression of the 16th inst. there appears an able and interesting letter from the pen of M. Philaret Chasles, author of "Etudes sur W. Shakespeare," &c. Therein the Mazarin Librarian professes to have discovered the mysterious "W.H." of the "Sonnets of Shakspere." In regard to this you will perhaps permit me space to state the following facts, viz.:—(1) In January, 1861, I published a small shilling volume, entitled "Shakespeare: a Critical Biography," which was noticed in the *Athenæum*. In that volume of mine, in an Appendix on the Sonnets (pp. 104–108), the suggestion of and the argument for supposing "Mr. W. H. to be William Hathaway" are given at length. (2) This idea is re-stated and enforced in a paper (April, 1864) in the *British Controversialist* and (3) appeared in *Notes and Queries* under my signature in 1865. In September, 1865, the editor of the *Inverness Advertiser* says: "Mr. Neil believes that the mysterious personage was William Hathaway, brother-in-law of the poet." (4) Shortly after the appearance of M. Philaret Chasles' letter in the *Athenæum* (January 25, 1862) a copy of the above volume was forwarded to him, and an acknowledgment of its receipt was sent to the present writer in his name by his secretary. I humbly submit to the readers of the *Athenæum* that, so far as regards this matter at least, there is a misreading in the proposed dedication, "To the Sublime Expounder of the Shakespearian Sonnets Mr. P. C. all honours and that reward," &c.

SAMUEL NEIL, Rector.

## MANUFACTURE OF NOVELS.

25, Market Street, Barnsley, Feb. 18, 1867.

THE tale "The Black Band," mentioned in the article "The Manufacture of Novels," in this week's *Athenæum*, was first published in the *Half-penny Journal* (Ward & Lock, 1861). The name of the authoress was then given as "Lady Caroline Lascelles."

A. J. TEYWOOD.

## SHOOTING-STARS AND THE WEATHER.

February 18, 1867.

In the *Athenæum* of Feb. 16, p. 219, I find the following remarks:—"While meteors and shooting-stars were supposed to be produced by exhalations of sulphur and so forth, it was impossible to disconnect them from atmospheric perturbations. Hence, till a very short time ago, during their apparition, barometers and thermometers were read with much assiduity as they were by that French prefect whose town was visited by a celestial messenger in the shape of a *leg of mutton* (which it was afterwards known had fallen from Nadar's balloon). If a hurricane will occur on the 10th of August or the 14th of November, we may always prognosticate a running accompaniment of shooting-stars; but to reverse this would be as absurd as it is contrary to the facts." This reasoning is perfectly correct, but it leads to an inference which may be erroneous, if there be any truth in the theory apparently established by M. Coulvier Gravier on the subject; and therefore it may be expedient to lay before the readers of the *Athenæum* a short account of this observer's method of interpreting the appearances and motions of the celestial visitants. The subject is very old; more than two thousand years ago the poet Aratus struck out the theory, for, speaking of shooting-stars, he says—

Kai εἴα νίκτα μῆλαιναν ὅρ' ἀστέρες δίσσωσι  
Ταρρέα, τοι δ' ὑπὲρ βούμοι ὑπὸ λουκάνιονται,  
Διεῖσθαι κίνης αὐτὴν ὁδὸν ἔχοντες οὐρανόν  
Πρεντατός, κ. τ. λ.

And in the murky night, when stars rush down,  
Frequent, and leave their flaming tracks behind,  
Know, by their course, whence coming wind shall blow.

M. Coulvier Gravier, who has devoted his whole life to the study of falling stars, has come to the conclusion that they are infallible prognostics of

the weather—if we only interpret them according to the maxims which he has established by patient observation. I should state that the French Government has furnished this eminent meteorologist with an observatory in the Luxembourg Palace, for the investigation of this, his peculiar "specialité." Falling stars (political and dynastic) have been proverbial in France, especially in modern times; and so, perhaps, we should not wonder at the Governmental interest taken in the analogous investigation. Alluding to the popular superstition as to falling stars being an omen of the death of some great personage, the poet Béranger said beautifully—

Encore une étoile qui file,  
Qui file, file et dépare!

Coulvier Gravier has classed falling stars in nine magnitudes, all of them visible to the naked eye. Their apparent size, which is very variable, often depends on the state of the atmospheric strata interposed between them and the earth. Their trains, also, are variously composed, according to the direction of the heavens where they appear. The variable duration of the apparition of the meteors presents interesting circumstances, and such as may facilitate the discovery of the laws which rule them. Their trajectories, or paths along the sky, are sometimes rectilinear, sometimes curvilinear, and serpentine. They have various aspects: they are sometimes watery, sometimes nebulous or cloudy, sometimes globate—all which appearances have a very characteristic meteorological significance. "The upshot of all this," says M. Coulvier Gravier, "is, that we have in the skies, marked in traces of fire, the proper indices or signs whereby to know beforehand all meteorological effects."

1. There are meteors which do not run through many degrees of the firmament, or even do not move at all. These are M. Gravier's "*wet meteors*"; they are signs of rain, more or less copious. It is the humidity of the air that opposes their combustion; and a great number of them is always a sure sign of rain. This is reasonable enough: a great degree of humidity in the air is the precursor of rain.

2. Shooting stars are generally white; when they are coloured or globular they indicate winds more or less violent: the colours result from the nature of the atmospheric stratum in which they circulate.

3. M. Gravier deduces important conclusions from the direction of the flight of meteors. In cold years, the general resultant of their flight, although in the morning as near as possible to west, is acted upon, during the night, by a force situated in the north, which sometimes makes it approach very near that region; then it descends again, mounts, and again descends. When this is the case, and especially when the disturbing force progresses nearly always in the same direction, the years in which this coincidence occurs must be generally cold. In years in which the resultant of the motion of the meteors chiefly affects the region E.S.E. and S., the weather must be very hot, and it will always be so if the disturbing force more frequently oscillates from S. to E.N.E. in passing through E.S.E. If the oscillation be from W. to S.S.E., passing through S.W., the period will be very stormy and rainy.

4. The velocity of the meteors furnishes valuable signs. If they are very slow, this shows there is a great calm in the upper regions of the atmosphere, and this calm will be extended to the surface of the earth. If, then, at the moment of observation the lower regions of the air be calm, the calm will continue; if not, then calm will soon ensue. The contrary takes place when the meteors have an excessive velocity. The upper regions being very much agitated, the lower regions must soon become so; and, therefore, if at the moment of observation the air be calm, we may be sure that there will be soon an end of it.

5. In all this it is evident that the meteors are patients, not agents, in atmospheric phenomena. Perturbation is the most important phenomenon in meteorology, and it seems to be so in the career of the shooting-stars. Otherwise, according to our author, the mere determination of the resultant of meteors would suffice to indicate with certainty all the fluctuations of the atmosphere. But this is not the case, as for instance—The force, or rather the

air currents, which set in motion these meteors, may be from the south. If there were no obstacle, the meteors would always take this direction of the atmospheric layers. But during an observation we may witness the following results: a meteor starts from the south, and, after running a few degrees, suddenly returns, and proceeds just as though it came from the north; another comes from S.E., and, after running some degrees, ends as though it came from N.E.

This state of things shows the resistance of a greater force in the north tending towards the south; and, on the third or fourth day after, the clouds and the wind will correspond with the northern direction, as indicated by the return of the meteors. Take another example. Suppose for some time the resultant of the meteoric directions is N.E., with fine weather and very high barometer. Suddenly a meteor starts from N.N.E. This meteor, instead of describing a regular trajectory, vacillates and serpents in its course. A second meteor, coming from N., ends as though coming from S.W. A third, coming from E., ends as though coming from S.W. If the reader will draw a rough sketch of the paths described on a sheet of paper, divided into the quadrants by lines headed N., S., E., W., he will probably recognize what he may have observed in the skies with regard to the flights of meteors.

Now, in this case, the meteor which has serpented in its course, and the others ending in S.W., show that the disturbing force is, at the moment, between S. and S.W. The barometer, thirty-six hours after the apparition of these signs, will begin to fall very slowly, and when, on the third or fourth day, the barometer shall have reached its maximum fall of about three-tenths, there will be rain. The clouds and the wind will then be in that part of the heavens indicated beforehand by the disturbing force—that is, between S. and S.W.

These examples may suffice to give some idea of the connexion between shooting-stars and the weather. Their path is obstructed by a current which is stronger than the force which impels them, and the former will, sooner or later, be felt on the earth beneath. Every one must have frequently seen such gyrations; and if Gravier's explanation be not the right one, it is difficult to imagine a better. It must be caused by the resistance and reaction of a stratum of atmosphere having a greater density or a greater velocity, or both together.

One of M. Gravier's most important conclusions is that by which it seems that we may know beforehand the general aspect of the entire year's weather. His axiom is as follows: "The resultant of the meteoric phenomena of the first four months of the year is the same as that of the entire year." Thus, if the resultant obtained by means of observations from January to May approach the north, then the year will be dry and cold; if it approach the south and south-west, then the year will be wet, in accordance with the above explanation.

Whenever the resultants of the meteoric flights are not altered by perturbations, they will be followed by results corresponding with their directions. The cause of all meteoric effects is in the higher regions of the atmosphere. Consequently, it is only by an attentive and persevering examination of those regions, by the study of such phenomena, that we shall be able to enlarge and improve the discoveries already made in meteorology.

I may remark, that M. Gravier is supported by another observer in the important meteorological supposition that changes of weather originate, in general, in the higher regions of the atmosphere, and thence descend to the surface of the earth. M. A. Poey, of Havannah, in a recent paper 'On the Azimuthal Rotation of Clouds,' maintains that the winds ordinarily begin to blow at the altitude of the clouds before they agitate the surface.

With respect to the great meteoric display of November 14, 1833, it is on record that very bad weather followed; and certainly the wind and weather following the meteoric shower of last November was quite in accordance with M. Gravier's theory. Two days after, on the 16th, a furious gale from the northward and eastward

swept the eastern coasts, followed by reactionary gales from the southward and westward on the southern coasts, with copious rainfall and disastrous floods in various parts of the country.

The observation of shooting-stars would be a valuable aid in prognosticating the weather. Scarcely a night passes without such phenomena taking place; unfortunately clear nights are too rare in our climate to admit of the regular observation of these "signs in the firmament."

I may take this opportunity for answering two questions asked in the article to which I refer,—first, as to the reason why "flat-bottomed clouds" show fine weather. The clouds alluded to are the *cumulus* variety, and the shape mentioned is the result of the strong horizontal current of air which is brushing beneath them (thus flattening their bottoms), whilst wafting them from the places where they were formed to others where they are to be dissolved or be deposited in rain. Of course as long as they have that appearance they are going away, and therefore the weather will remain fair.

With respect to "a mackerel sky," I may state that it is not a sign of fair weather, but the reverse:—

Mackerels' scales and mares' tails  
Make lofty ships carry low sails.

The foul weather consequent results from the accumulation in denser masses of the clouds which make it, namely, the *cirrus*, or *icy cloud*, forming the *cirro-stratus*, which is Howard's name for the *mackerel's scales*. Condensation of vapour must be the result of the lowering of temperature; hence the storm of wind and rain that follows, with electric manifestations connected with the same perturbation of temperature caused by the prevalence of the icy cloud.

Mr. Harrison's discovery (alluded to in the article) of the *higher temperature* always prevailing in the first half of every lunation, seems to be attributable to the prevalence of the *warmer winds* during that period. Mr. C. Fullbrook has sent me the result of an examination of the winds through one revolution of the point of apogee, which occupies 8 years and 10 months, comprising 118 courses, and it appears that the maximum of S.W. wind on the eighth day after new moon is 9 per cent.; of W. wind at the full, 6 per cent.; of N.W. wind, fourth day after full, 6 per cent.; of N. wind, four days before, and three days after, new moon,  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent.; of N.E. wind, ninth day after full,  $\frac{6}{5}$  per cent.; of E. wind, same time,  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. But, indeed, Horsburgh ("Sailing Directory") gives the old sailor's experience, namely, that "changes of the moon, in most parts of the globe, are more likely to be accompanied by stormy weather than the full; and blowing weather prevails more in dark nights than when much of the moon's disc is illuminated"; and it appears from Mr. Fullbrook's results, that 12 or 13 per cent. of all winds are due to the moon's varying distance. Assuredly, the whole doctrine of periodic phenomena is very little understood, and yet it is "the part of Hamlet" in the play of the elements.

ANDREW STEINMETZ.

#### ROMAN VILLAS NEAR BATH.

THE numerous, extensive, and, in many cases, elegant and even magnificent Roman remains discovered in Bath, have long caused antiquaries to regard *Aqua Solis*, by which name it was formerly known, as one of the most interesting Roman cities in Britain. The vestiges of the walls which surrounded the city,—of the Forum,—of the grand temple dedicated to Minerva,—of the vast baths, 245 feet long by 120 feet broad,—and of innumerable architectural fragments and pieces of sculpture found in Bath, amply justify this conclusion. Nor are these interesting discoveries confined to Bath proper. Excavations connected with railways and other works in the vicinity of the city have led to the discovery of villas, all more or less remarkable for their construction, and for the remains found within them. Others have been laid open by excavations purposely made in order to disinter them; and the result is, that up to the present time twenty villas have been found near Bath, and it is highly probable that many more remain concealed. The number discovered is, however, suf-

ficient to show that Bath and its vicinity was a favourite residence of Romans who engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Some of the villas give us, indeed, a very high idea of civilization, and even of refinement. One, discovered some years ago at Wellow, four miles south of Bath, on the line of the Foss road to Ilchester, was no less than 190 feet long by 150 feet broad, provided with spacious *crypto-porticos*, hypocausts, baths, numerous chambers with tessellated floors, many of elegant patterns, and various architectural ornaments. A description of these villas will be found in the Rev. H. M. Scarth's 'Aqua Solis' published in 1864; and to this zealous antiquary are we now indebted for the account of another villa recently discovered on Cold Harbour Farm, under the north declivity of Lansdown, near Bath. Traces of Roman remains have long been known to exist here; and from these and other facts it was determined to make excavations at this locality. Within a regular earthen inclosure of a rectangular form, about two acres in extent, foundation-walls were struck, and distinct traces found of fourteen rooms on the same level, heated by two hypocausts. The floors had evidently been supported by the brick piles of these hypocausts, but a small pillar was also used, which bears evidence of having been turned in a stone lathe. A paved court was uncovered, within which there had been a small garden. Many tiles and fragments of plaster with patterns were found, as also bones of animals, tips of the antlers of fallow and red deer, with teeth of these animals and of the wild boar. From marks on some of these bones it appears that they were prepared as handles for knives or other implements. Various specimens of pottery, from the coarse black kind to the finer red and Samian, and good specimens of glass, were discovered, with a variety of coins, mostly, however, of little value, ranging from A.D. 270 to 455, the extreme limit of the Roman occupation of this island. This villa, in the opinion of Mr. Scarth, was probably occupied by a Roman British resident until the Saxon conquest, when it shared the fate of the numerous villas around Bath, and was destroyed by fire. It is worthy of notice, that the surface of the walls of this villa when uncovered did not present a jagged or broken surface, but appeared to be in their original state. This is the condition of all the walls of Roman villas discovered in this country, leading to the inference that the stonework remains at its original height, the rest of the wall being constructed of clay. The remains of another villa are supposed to exist near that on Cold Harbour Farm; and we trust that the Bath Natural History Club, under whose auspices this villa has been discovered, and to whom Mr. Scarth communicated the foregoing particulars, will continue their researches into these interesting remains.

We may add, that several of the relics discovered in this villa have been removed to the museum of the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution, where they may be seen.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

A rumour has gone abroad that the Queen is employing some of her leisure hours in writing a book, which is shortly to be published. This is an age of royal authorship; and we think it probable that Her Majesty is engaged, with the assistance of Mr. Helps, in writing a Memoir of the late Prince Consort.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett's new publications include a fourth edition of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's 'New America,' which contains an additional illustration, representing one of the Shaker ladies; also 'Off the Line,' a new story by Lady Charles Thynne; and 'A Trip to the Tropics, being Notes of Travel in 1866,' by the Marquis of Lorn.

Under the title of 'Life and Work at the Great Pyramid, during the Months of January, February, March, and April, A.D. 1865; with a Discussion of the Facts Ascertained,' Prof. C. Piazzi Smyth is about to publish three formidable volumes on his strange theory that the Great Pyramid was intended by its primeval designer to memorialize a

system of weights and measures for the use of all mankind.

A new phase has been given this year to the literature of valentines, and the love of young ladies is now invoked for a spouse who is not of this earth! They are asked in the *Christian Valentine* to yield their hearts to "the loving One," whose affection for them will be something warmer than that of any child of the world. Here is a sample of one verse out of nine, all of which solicitious young maidens to "love your Valentine."—

Do not longer tarry,  
Read His inspired lines;  
Christ for ever marry,  
The best of Valentines.

Young Agnes is then referred to Cant. v. 10-16; and certainly the 15th verse teaches her how earthly marriages may be followed by much profitless consequence.

A note from Mr. Farrar tells its own tale:—

"Harrow, Feb. 14, 1867.

"As I have received numerous inquiries about my lecture 'On Public School Education,' delivered before the Royal Institution on Friday, the 8th, will you kindly do me the favour of allowing me to announce that the manuscript is in Messrs Macmillan's hands for immediate publication.—I am, &c.,

FREDERIC W. FARRAR, M.A."

Young people "of all ages" will be sorry to hear of the death, at the Zoological Gardens, in Regent's Park, of that popular favourite, the sea-bear. The Society has been rather unlucky in its losses lately; the lions' dens, the monkey house, and the giraffe house having suffered terribly. Among the regrettable losses of the Gardens was the recent death of a couple of prairie dogs.

Certain Supplementary Estimates being presented to the House of Commons on Monday evening last, the following sum were voted for artistic purposes: For the purchase of the Blacas Collection, 45,721*l.*; reduced from 48,000*l.*, the original cost of this addition to the British Museum, by selling duplicates of examples that were already in hand.—1,575*l.* to Messrs. Banks & Barry, for the "Burlington House Design" for a new National Gallery. As to this matter, Lord John Manners is reported to have stated that the original charge of the architects in question was reduced from 5,007*l.* to the above-named amount, "on condition that they should be appointed architects to the new buildings on the same site." Standing alone, this statement is amazing, more than enough to call for an explanation from the parties principally concerned.—600*l.* to Mr. Cope, as before stated in the *Athenæum*, being additional payment for the pictures in a corridor of the Houses of Parliament, granted in consequence of the recommendation of a Committee of the House.—50,000*l.* for the approaching Exhibition at Paris, part of 110,650*l.* proposed for the entire service by this country.

A collection of pearls and diamonds, called the Esterhazy jewels, has been on view in the Strand for a few days. The precious stones are all mounted for wear; the diamonds in caps, belts, sword-ornaments, buckles and the like; the pearls as ornaments for vests and pantaloons. The work is Viennese; and it is impossible not to admire the barbaric splendour of such attire—in a museum of Art. Would any sane person like to appear in those pearl breeches?

Messrs. Dean & Son have issued new editions of 'Debrett's Peerage' and 'Debrett's Baronetage, Knightage, and House of Commons,' for the current season,—two handy-books of reference for everybody.

With regard to the preservation of Bunhill Fields burial-ground, it appears that "The Committee of the three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters" has memorialized the Corporation of London and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, urging that steps should immediately be taken to allay the anxiety of those whose relatives are interred there. At present, nothing has resulted from this step. A question asked in the House of Commons a few days ago elicited the reply, that an independent motion would be made for the production of correspondence in the matter,

so that the public will, we trust, soon be fully aware of the nature and present position of the matter. The lease to the Corporation terminates with the present year. It appears that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have refused the offer of that body to put the place in order, and maintain it as a recreation ground. We hope that no mischief will happen to the graves of many Nonconformist heroes, while parties are disputing as to the position of one side or the other, and attempting to decide whether or not the City authorities had legal power, or moral right, to let in perpetuity graves of which they were only leaseholders.

In the course of making the physical researches necessary for ascertaining, by the passage of electricity through the Atlantic Cable, the difference of longitude between America and England, it has been found that the time required for a signal to pass through the Atlantic Cable, is 31-100ths of a second. This is equal to a velocity of 6,020 miles a second, considerably less than the speed of the electric fluid through land lines.

Those of our readers who take an interest in the history of Shakespearean relics, may consider the death of Mr. Thomas Gibbs, of Stratford-upon-Avon, worth a passing notice. He was the last surviving assistant of Thomas Sharp, of mulberry-tree notoriety; a person who has been suspected, but on insufficient evidence, of having sold a large number of supposititious relics as genuine portions of the tree. Sharp died in October, 1799, and made a solemn declaration on his death-bed that all the mulberry relics sold by him were genuine. The original of this affidavit was carefully treasured by old Gibbs, and, in compliance with his wish, it is now deposited in the local museum.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Charles Lever, the veteran romancer, has been promoted by Lord Stanley to the office of Consul at Trieste.

We have received the following note:—

"February 17, 1867.

"In the kind and appreciative notice of my novel, 'The Forlorn Hope,' which appeared in last week's *Athenæum*, it is stated that 'the story opens in the Highlands of Scotland, at the seat of a wealthy proprietor, Kilsyth of Kilsyth, who is represented, probably by a clerical slip, as being a member of the House of Commons and *lord lieutenant of his county*.' Permit me to assure you that the italicized line contains no error, clerical or otherwise. There are several gentlemen who are at the same time members of the House of Commons and lords lieutenant (so styled) of Scotch counties, e.g. D. Robertson, Esq., M.P. and Lord Lieutenant for Berwick; Lieut.-Col. Stuart, M.P. and Lord Lieutenant for Bute; F. Dundas, Esq., M.P. and Lord Lieutenant for Orkney.

EDMUND YATES.

Among our notices of meetings will be found the titles of two papers read last week at the Royal Society, one by Mr. C. W. Siemens, the other by Prof. Wheatstone. Though the wording be different, the subject is the same: the two machines by which the subject was illustrated are substantially the same. It is another instance of two skilful inventors arriving, quite independently of each other, at similar conclusions; and for the Fellows of the Royal Society present at the meeting, it was a treat to hear the two gentlemen describe their machines, accompanied by practical demonstrations. Given a certain combination of soft iron and copper wire, and the effect of rotation thereupon is something to wonder at. A more striking instance of the convertibility of one kind of force into another, dynamic into electric, could hardly be devised; and that it is susceptible of important applications cannot be doubted. One obvious use to which the machines may immediately be put is the production of large quantities of electricity at a very small cost. We understand that they are to be again exhibited in operation at the first of the two conversazioni which the President of the Royal Society is to hold at Burlington House.

The Early English Text Society will issue to its subscribers next week the last two of the eleven texts it gives them for their guinea of 1866, namely,

The Romance of Partenay or Lusignen, edited for the first time from the unique MS. in the Library of Trin. Coll. Cambridge, by the Rev. W. W. Skeat, — 'Dan Michel's Ayenbite of Inwyd, or Remorse of Conscience, in the Kentish Dialect, 1340 A.D.,' edited from the unique MS. in the British Museum, by Richard Morris, Esq. With these will also be issued the first three texts for 1867, namely, 'Hymns to the Virgin and Christ; the Parliament of Devils; and other Religious Poems,' edited from the Lambeth MS. 853, by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., — 'The Stacions of Rome, and the Pilgrims' Sea-Voyage and Sea-Sickness, with Clems Maydenhod,' edited from the Vernon and Porkington MSS., &c., by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., — 'Dan Jon Gaytrigg's Sermon; the Abbaye of S. Spirit; Sayne Jon; and other Pieces in the Northern Dialect,' edited from Robert of Thorntone's MS. (ab. 1440 A.D.), by the Rev. G. Perry. The fourth text for 1867, a new edition of the earliest English Rhyming Dictionary, 1570 A.D., is all printed, but awaits its Index.

The British Museum incomplete duplicate of the grand Vernon MS. at the Bodleian is now being catalogued. It does not contain half that the Vernon does, but is curious for one thing, that although it contains a Southernized copy of the Northern dialect 'Prick of Conscience,' which Richard Rolle, of Hampole, wrote (and Mr. R. Morris edited for the Philological Society), it gives the name 'Prick of Conscience' to a metrical translation of the 'Somme des Vices et des Vertus,' which Dan Michel, of Northgate, translated in prose as the 'Ayenbite of Inwyd, or Remorse of Conscience,' in 1340 A.D. It is the first great monument of the Kentish dialect, as the Lin-disfane and Rushworth Gospels are of the Northern.

The great Industrial Exhibition recently held at Agra, representing the North-West provinces of India, is stated to have been highly successful. The Exhibition was arranged in five departments, viz., Live Stock, Agricultural and Animal Products, Fossil and Mineral Products, Machinery and Implements, and Arts and Manufactures. The prizes to be awarded to the exhibitors in the various departments consist of sixty first-class medals, 236 silver medals, and 120,500 rupees.

M. Victor Cousin has left his collection of books, said to be of great value, to the Sorbonne, in the following clause: "I bequeath to the Sorbonne my best work—my library." One of the old philosopher's political sarcasms is repeated in Parisian houses. "You are a young fellow," he is reported to have said to a friend a few weeks ago, "take good advice and save money. If not, you will prepare for yourself a dishonoured old age. If not, when your hairs are grey, you will have no alternative but an hospital or the senate." A collection of Cousin's *bons-mots* would make an admirable commentary on current history.

The young Germans living in London, mostly engaged in business, give symptoms of praiseworthy aspirations towards intellectual enjoyment during their spare hours. Last Tuesday witnessed a very creditable performance of Sophocles' 'Antigone,' according to Donner's translation, at the Turnhalle, King's Cross. The three Männergesang-Vereine established in London,—the Camberwell, the Islington and the Turner-Gesangverein,—under the spirited conductorship of Herr Knappe, united in executing Mendelssohn's fine choruses, while the dramatic parts of the tragedy were read by gentlemen amateurs. The performance went off to the entire satisfaction of a crowded audience.

Some years ago reports were published in the technological journals of Austria concerning the manufacture of wool from pine-trees. The acicular foliage, if such it may be called, of those trees was, by a certain treatment, brought into a state of fibre which could be woven into a cloth resembling coarse flannel. Great expectations were entertained of beneficial results to follow; but the matter appears to have been forgotten until revived last year by Mr. Pannewitz, of Breslau. And now bed-coverings, woven from pine-fibre, are in use in hospitals, prisons, and barracks in Silesia and

Austria; and in the unwoven state it is used for the stuffing of mattresses, cushions, chair-seats, and other articles. The cost is said to be but one-third that of horsehair, and there is the further advantage that, owing to its aromatic properties, the pine-fibre repels the insects that too frequently lodge in woollen textures.

An Ethnographic Exhibition is to be held in Moscow next autumn, which is to include specimens from neighbouring countries as well as from all parts of Russia. There will be national costumes, ornaments, implements, and rarities of handicraft, so arranged as to give the visitor a clear impression of the characteristic differences of the different peoples by whom they have been produced. All the Slavonic tribes will be there represented, whatever their present nationality, whereby the Exhibition will have an especial interest from the ethnographic point of view. It can hardly fail to be highly instructive; for in richness and diversity of costumes, and in ornamental work, Russia may be said to excel all other countries, as students of Prince Demidoff's magnificent work on those subjects will be ready to acknowledge.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES BY THE MEMBERS IS NOW OPEN, 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES, OPEN FROM TEN TO SIX, AT THEIR GALLERY, 53, Pall Mall (opposite Marlborough House).—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. C. H. COOKSON, Secretary.

JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

*Will shortly close.*

WINTER EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF PICTURES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BRITISH ARTISTS, IS NOW OPEN, AT THE FRENCH GALLERY, 130, Pall Mall.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

LEON LEFÈVRE, Secretary.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—THE GALLERY FOR THE EXHIBITION AND SALE OF THE WORKS OF BRITISH ARTISTS, IS OPEN DAILY, FROM TEN TILL FIVE.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.—EXHIBITION OF WORKS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Five; Saturdays till Six (lighted). GALLERY, 9, Conduit Street, Regent Street.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. THE SOCIETY FOR STUDY FROM THE LIVING MODEL (in costume), Tuesdays and Fridays.

DUDDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall.—THE GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS IS NOW OPEN, daily, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. GAS AT GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 24, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Leslie, R.A.; Robert, R.A.; M. Ward, R.A.; Holman Hunt, J. Phillip, R.A.; T. Frost, R.A.; R. Frith, R.A.; Rose Bonheur; Henriette Browne—Goodall, R.A.; Cox, R.A.; Creswick, R.A.; Pickersgill, R.A.; Calderon, R.A.; Sant, A.R.A.; Le Jeune, A.R.A.; Andsell, A.R.A.; Frost, A.R.A.; Pettie, A.R.A.; Yeames, A.R.A.; Nasmyth; Linell, sen.; Pettie, A.R.A.; Nasmyth, A.R.A.; Galton, F.; John Faed; F. R. Ruiser—Liddel—George Smith—Duveneck; Peter Graham, &c. Admission on presentation of address card.

MISS GLYN (Mrs. E. S. Dallas) will READ, on FRIDAY EVENING, March 3, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, 'ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA,' by Shakspeare, in English. Price, 1s. Tickets to be had at Mitchell's, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond Street; Messrs. George Dohly & Townsend's, 220, Regent Street; W. Austin's, 28, Piccadilly; and at Chappell & Co.'s, 59, New Bond Street.

THE AZTECS.—Señor and Señora NUNEZ, who were married in the presence of the Registrar-General and Family, &c., on Monday, the 7th day of January, 1867, in the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square, and were afterwards entertained at a dinner given at the Royal Automobile Club, had the honour of appearing before Her Majesty, the late Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family, at Buckingham Palace, on the 4th day of July, 1867. The guests included the members of the Royal Household, several Presidents, and a Cheque on Messrs. Coutts & Co. for a munificent sum. Since 1853 they have appeared before the Emperor Napoleon and Imperial Family at the Tuilleries and Imperial Family of Austria, the Empress and Imperial Family of Prussia, the Emperor of Brazil, the King of Hanover and Denmark, King of Belgium, Count de Flandre, Duchess of Brabant, and a million visitors. Maximo and Bertola were the guests of President Fillmore and family at the White House at Washington on the 11th day of June, 1852; and after giving a concert at the same place, the Señor and Señora Nunez and House of Representatives. The mystery connected with their history, their origin, and their tribe, is as great a puzzle as ever to the scientific men of Europe and America. They are unlike anything yet seen, and, as Professor Owen says, "cannot fail to surprise and interest the scientific world." Maximino is said to be able to receive visitors for a short time only, prior to their departure for Italy, at the Hanover Square Rooms, commencing on SATURDAY, February 23, 1867. Grand Fashionable Receptions (Morning), daily from One till Three.—Entrance, 5s.; Children, 2s. 6d.; Evening, Reception, from Three till Five.—Entrance, 2s. 6d.; Children, 1s. 6d. Photographs of the Aztecs, in their Wedding and other Dresses, 1s. each; Histories, 1s.

LEOTARD;

or,

"THE AUTOMATON!"

"WHO, OR WHICH?"

The enigma variously solved by the Visitors at the Royal Polytechnic, who can see this wonder on the Trapeze daily, at Three and Nine o'clock.

## SCIENCE

### SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 14.—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—The following papers were read:—'On the Relation of Insolation to Atmospheric Humidity,' by Mr. J. P. Harrison. The author showed that the loss of heat by radiation from the solar thermometer and actinometer is greatest under a cloudless sky and perfectly transparent atmosphere; and that it is in consequence of this radiation being diminished in autumn—the period of maximum humidity—that the occurrence of post-solstitial monthly maxima of insolation in July and August is to be ascribed.—'On the Conversion of Dynamical into Electrical Force without the Aid of Permanent Magnetism,' by Mr. C. W. Siemens.—'On the Augmentation of the Power of a Magnet by Induction Currents produced thereby and reacting on the Magnet itself,' by Prof. Wheatstone.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Jan. 24.—F. Ouvry, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair.—E. Peacock, Esq., exhibited a drawing of a monumental slab of very peculiar design, from Clee churchyard, in the county of Lincoln.—A. W. Franks, Esq., exhibited some bone implements which had been found at London Wall and Queenhithe. Mr. Franks seemed to be of opinion that they might possibly have served the same uses as a modern tool therewith exhibited, which a watchmaker informed him was now in use for working up and filing, &c., wire and other like materials.—R. Acton, Esq., exhibited a tobacco-box bearing the arms of the Dutch republic.—E. W. Brabrooke, Esq., communicated a paper on the ceremonies in use on the creation of serjeants-at-law.

Jan. 31.—Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.—The assent of the meeting was invited from the Chair to a protest against the contemplated destruction of a fine arched gateway at Tenby. This protest received the unanimous approval of the meeting, and the Secretary was instructed to forward it without delay to the mayor and corporation of Tenby.—F. Ouvry, Esq., exhibited some forged antiquities, in bronze.—W. H. Overall, Esq., exhibited (1), a Roman spur (an object of great rarity); (2), a Roman ligula; (3), a lock and key from a chest in Gillingham Church, Norfolk; (4), a key found in the Thames.—A. W. Franks, Esq., exhibited (1), a badge of the baronets of Nova Scotia; (2), a badge of the Order of Falconry.—J. Featherstone, Esq., exhibited two fibulae, and a kind of bead or spindlewhorl from Aston Cantlow, Warwickshire.—E. Peacock, Esq., exhibited an interesting Roll of Swanmarks, on which he further communicated a paper.—W. Bollaert, Esq., exhibited a large collection of drawings and photographs of Mexican antiquities.

Feb. 7.—Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.—M. Bloxam, Esq., exhibited a stone implement of the drift type, and a scraper, from Thetford, Norfolk.—S. R. Gardiner, Esq., laid before the Society four undated letters of Lord Bacon's, together with other documents illustrative of his life. Mr. Gardiner's paper entered very fully into the question of the monopolies, and the case of Sir Giles Mompesson, a question which involves so largely that of Bacon's character and integrity.

Feb. 14.—C. W. Martin, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—This being the night appointed for the ballot, no papers were read.—The following gentlemen were elected: the Rev. G. Lloyd, J. Fowler, H. J. C. Beavan, C. Pooley, A. C. Ewald; and an Honorary Fellow, Rafaële Garucci.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Feb. 1.—Mr. C. S. Greaves, Q.C., in the chair.—Mr. E. Smirke gave an account of the legend of the hunting of King Edmund at Cheddar, as described in a MS. among the muniments of Axbridge, Somerset. The MS. is probably of the fourteenth century, and its main subject is the supposed origin of English boroughs, and that of Axbridge in particular. Dunstan was famous in those parts, the neighbourhood abounding in stories relating to him. One of the most remarkable is that of his having saved King Edmund, when hunting in the Mendip Hills, from being carried over the Cheddar cliff by his horse. This

intervention led to the King's reconciliation with the great reformer, or improver, of the times; and the story told in the MS. was a remarkable corroboration of oral tradition by documentary evidence.—The Chairman spoke of tradition as deserving much weight, but there was a difficulty sometimes in estimating it. He adduced several instances of its importance; the country people having scarcely changed, so that stories were handed down from mouth to mouth.—Dr. Rock also mentioned some curious cases of tradition. In the neighbourhood of Bunbury there was a tradition of a battle having been fought there, of which he knew of no account. As to St. Dunstan, the 'Acta Sanctorum' contain the germs of English history.—The Rev. J. Beck gave an account of a remarkable discovery of silver coins in Sussex. The find took place at Lower Chancton, in the parish of Washington, on a farm belonging to the Duke of Norfolk, and tenanted by Mr. C. Botting. The plough, in passing over the site of an old hedgerow, struck upon a hard substance. It proved to be a crock or earthen pot, in which was a leather bag packed full of silver coins. They must have exceeded two thousand in number, of which many had been secured for the British Museum. They are almost all of the period of Edward the Confessor, but some were probably earlier. It was not improbably a hoard secreted at the time of the Norman invasion. A few years since a similar discovery was made in the immediate neighbourhood of this find; but on that occasion the coins were of a much earlier period. Very many of the coins found at Chancton were lost, owing to the anxiety of the country people to elude the vigilance of the police in the matter; and this circumstance gave rise to an animated discussion among the Members of the Institute as to the best means of proceeding in similar case of treasure trove. A summary demand for restitution, with threats of pains and penalties in default, was felt not to be the best means of securing such trouvailles, and a conciliatory practice of allowing a fair remuneration to the finder was recommended.—A communication was read from Sir Gardner Wilkinson, calling attention to a late vote of the Town Council of Tenby, which had doomed to destruction one of the ancient gates of that town. Sir Gardner hoped that the members of the Institute would remonstrate against this proposed demolition of a remarkably fine and curious relic of military architecture. Strong expressions of opinion, coinciding entirely with that of Sir Gardner Wilkinson, were elicited by this communication, and a resolution was unanimously adopted in accordance with it.—Mr. Henderson exhibited a small collection of personal ornaments and oriental arms of very fine quality. Among them were, Indian gorget of gold repoussé work; a Persian belt-clasp of steel, damascened in gold and silver; Albanian cartouche-boxes of gilt metal, chased in relief; two carved daggers and a Kuttah dagger; a Dargeeling from the North of India, with sheath of silver filigree studded with turquoise; and a Sikh knife in enamelled sheath, with bead embroidery.—Mr. Tate exhibited some relics of various periods found in Northumberland, chiefly at Norham and Alnwick, or the neighbourhood. They comprised leaden and shale rings; stone celts, one of which was remarkable for having a hollow on neck, and another for the sharpened edge; an iron sword found in the Tweed bank, and apparently of archaic type (it was pronounced, however, to be of the thirteenth century); stone balls, probably used in grinding wheat; two inscribed silver fibulae; and two matrices of seals, probably of the fifteenth century.—The Rev. R. P. Coates exhibited some relics of the Roman period, found in digging a culvert near Dartford, Kent, during the past year. The most remarkable of these objects was a circular disc of thin bronze, full of small holes perforated in lines radiating from the centre. It was, probably, the object-scale of a pair of balances.—The Hon. R. Curzon exhibited two fine tilting-helmets, one of the fourteenth and the other of the fifteenth century. The earlier was remarkable as having the "mamelon" chain perfect. This is often to be seen figured on monuments, but it had not yet been seen on an actual example. By this chain the wearer could divest himself at pleasure of his weighty

head-piece, and carry it when more convenient.—Mr. H. Parnell exhibited a collection of flint flakes found north-east of Boulogne.

STATISTICAL.—Feb. 19.—The President, Lord Houghton, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows: Messrs. R. A. Earle, N. Stiebel, and G. E. Martini.—A paper was read, by Major-General Balfour, 'On the Military Conscriptiōn of France.'

ZOOLOGICAL.—Feb. 14.—J. Gould, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Slater made some remarks on the recent additions to the Society's Menagerie, amongst which were particularly noticed a pair of rare Lorises (*Loris chlorocercus*), from the Salomon Islands, and a Mooruk (*Casuarinus Bennetti*), presented to the Society (with other birds) by Commodore Sir W. S. Wiseman, Bart.—Prof. Newton exhibited and made remarks upon an original picture of a White Dodo, which he supposed to represent the extinct Didine bird of the island of Bourbon.—Dr. Gray gave a notice of an otter recently discovered in Japan by Mr. Whitley, which he proposed to call *lutreocetes whiteleyi*. Dr. Gray also communicated some notes on the Corallines, of the division *Zoanthina*, containing the descriptions of some new genera.—Mr. Gould exhibited a drawing of a new Parrakeet, from North-east Australia, forwarded to him by Mr. C. Coxen, of Brisbane, and proposed to designate the species *Cyclopsitta Cozani*. This bird was stated to be of great interest as belonging to a genus hitherto unknown to occur in Australia.

PHILOLOGICAL.—Feb. 15.—T. Watts, Esq., in the chair.—R. Martineau, Esq. was elected a Member.—The paper read was, 'On the Provincialisms of the North Riding of Yorkshire,' by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson.—Commencing with a notice of the prevalence of Danish words and forms of speech in the dialect, extending in some instances to remarkable coincidence in phrase and proverb, the reader drew special attention to the unmistakable presence of a large proportion of genuine Old English material in the speech of the district, as contradistinguished from Old Danish. The results of an analysis of a large number of words taken, one portion from the earlier part of the Cleveland Glossary, and another from towards the end, were then stated, the tendency of which was to establish the fact that, of every 100 words in the dialect, 10 may be looked upon as Anglo-Saxon, 6 Old English, 10 corrupt or familiar English, 40 Scandinavian, 24 common to Scandinavian and Germanic sources, less than 2 Celtic, 3 Mediaeval Latin or French, and 5 doubtful. A further illustration of the extent to which words of northern origin prevail in the dialect was obtained by a collation of the 'Ancrum Riwle,' Layamon's 'Brut,' and the 'Vision' of Piers Ploughman, with the 4,350 words collected in the Glossary, the result of which gave only a per-cent of about 5·5 words in the first-named book, 4·5 in the second, and 2·25 in the third, which, or etymons of which, are met with in the dialect of Cleveland. The fact of the strong preponderance of Scandinavian elements in the dialect under notice was then placed in co-ordination with the ancient names of places in the district itself, at least five-sixths of which appear to be Old Danish, with the names of owners given in Domesday, 22 out of the 27 (not allowing for probable duplicates) were Danes or Northmen, and with the names of serfs three generations later (scarcely attainable); and it was contended that, under the circumstances of occupation thus represented, the language of the district must once have been characterized by a preponderance of currency not only of Danish words and idioms, but also of structure and grammar; and, finally, on the grounds assumed to be thus established, the characteristic definite article of the Northumbrian dialect was specially noticed, and reasons alleged for regarding it as, in point of fact, coincident with the *quæd*-definite article, *then*, *thet*, *the*, in use in the oldest Danish writings extant, as, for instance, in the following sentence from the 'Haderslev Stadtreter,' 1284, "the mughæ the fræder ei takæ the børn, meth there gooz, in there gömæ, uten the

fræder göræ full wiisse," &c.; a usage further illustrated by a reference to existing Jutland and Norse dialects, and to conversational practices not unknown to modern Danes. To the paper was also appended a selection of words from the Glossary of the Cleveland dialect, several of them not before recorded, with remarks illustrative of their derivation and affinities.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Jan. 25.—Sir Henry Holland, Bart., President, in the chair.—'On Mr. Graham's Recent Discoveries on the Diffusion of Gases,' by Mr. W. Odling.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Feb. 11.—'On Pottery and Porcelain' (Cantor Lecture); Lecture IV., 'On German Pottery and Oriental Porcelain,' by Mr. W. Chaffers.

Feb. 13.—The paper read was, 'On Artificial Illumination,' by Mr. D. N. Defries.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Actuaries, 7.—'Mortality in America,' Mr. Brown.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Sculpture,' Prof. Westmacott.
- Architects, 8.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'European Porcelain,' Mr. Chaffers.
- (Continued Lecture.)
- Geographical, 8.—'Explorations of the Purus and Amazon Basins,' Mr. Chandless; 'Drivers of Caravans,' S. Peru; Don A. Raimondi.
- TUES. Engineers, 8.—'Clifton Suspension Bridge'; 'Steep Graves and Sheep-Walks,' Mr. T. M. Jackson.
- Ethnological, 8.—'Archaeology of Bronze and Ethnology,' Mr. Howorth; 'Non-Hindoo Tribes on Borders of Hindustan,' Hon. G. Campbell.
- WED. Society of Arts, 8.—'Economy of Telegraphy as a Public Utility,' Mr. T. Cook.
- THURS. Zoological, 8.—'Skill of *Tapirus Bairdii*,' Mr. Flower; 'Birds of Chile,' Mr. Slater; 'Anatomy of the Sea-Bear,' Dr. Murie.
- Mathematical, 8.—'Extensions of Möbius's and Feuerbach's Theorem, with application to Focal Curves,' Mr. Crofton; 'Mr. Thompson's Method of Inscribing Polygons, &c.,' Prof. Hirst.
- Royal, 8.
- FRI. Antiquaries, 8.—'Philological,' O. Cockayne.

#### FINE ARTS

##### THE COURTS OF JUSTICE.

Two points in this immensely interesting subject present themselves before others for careful consideration: these are, (1) the nature and extent of the accommodation provided by the several competitors for the users of the building; (2) its architectural character. Into the former of these points it is the special business of the Commissioners and legal authorities to inquire; none but they can satisfactorily decide between the competitors. Into the details of these prodigious schemes for accommodating twenty-one Courts of Law it is not our province to enter at large; no fair estimate of the manner in which the requirements have been answered in detail can be made without months of earnest attention by men who are specially accustomed to the use of and trained in the matters to which they relate. Accordingly, as out of our province and far beyond our limits, we shall confine ourselves to a brief general account of the various modes of arranging the masses of building in question. For clearness sake, it may be said that the purposes of many parts of the edifice may be broadly stated thus: (1) Those which pertain to the Judges and Juries, as their courts, retiring-rooms, &c.; (2) to the Bar and Attorneys, their special rooms, libraries, consultation-rooms or their substitutes in halls or corridors; (3) to the Offices, which are of the most varied kinds and greatest numbers; (4) the Record Towers. In addition to these we have kitchens and refreshment-rooms or dining-halls, which most of the competitors have supplied separately to each class of those for whose use the Courts of Justice are required. It is essential to remember these distinctions, because their nature, extent, approaches, intercommunication and the means of isolating them are the difficult parts of this grand architectural problem; also because the respective merits of the plans in arranging these elements and supplying the peculiar wants of each are to be considered before all other qualities. We shall hereafter describe the system of each competitor as above selected, together with the architectural character of his design; and now begin with that of Mr. Scott, which will introduce the arrangements of his competitors.

With characteristic sagacity this architect states

that a generally successful distribution of the whole series of departments is to be preferred to even complete success with one individually, and, as it would seem, bearing in mind the fact that the Courts are more important than the offices attached to them, he has separated the two orders by an internal street, which gives access to both. Generally speaking, his plan comprises a hollow central block for the Courts, the internal street and an outer shell for offices. The block is a parallelogram complete, inclosing an open space—which more hereafter. The internal street forms three sides of a like figure, the fourth of which appears in the Strand; the outer shell has the like form of three sides only, the ends of two of which face the Strand. On the western side of the shell, exteriorly, but attached, are the Record Towers, between which is an open space, to be covered with glass for a reading-room. External to these, and completing the inclosure, is a further building, running parallel to the western side of the shell and devoted to the Probate offices.

Mr. R. Brandon has a central hall of 130 ft. in height and about 280 ft. long by 55 ft. wide, groups all his Courts about it in a felicitous fashion, and happily gives access to them by means of lobbies that are placed behind each alternate bay of the great hall. Mr. Seddon's hall, however, does not serve as a means for communication to the whole of the Courts. All his Equity Courts and two-thirds of those devoted to Common Law approximate to the eastern limb, i.e. the Library, &c. Mr. Street has a central hall of comparatively small but sufficient dimensions (130 ft. by 57 ft.), and gathers nine Courts about it; the others being exterior to, but, although disposed about an outer zone, having its own open quadrangles for light and air and accommodating the offices, less conveniently accessible from it.—Mr. Waterhouse has adopted the zone system, and combined it with that of the central hall in a most ingenious manner. He places his offices in the external zone, which incloses a street, not a thoroughfare, with two entrances from the Strand. This street incloses a central zone, in which are the Courts and their appurtenances, the former of which are in two parallel lines, divided only by the central hall, which thus answers the purposes of Westminster Hall. Across this, i.e. running north and south, go the architect's "transverse halls," a broad avenue that is placed on a lower level than the central hall, which crosses them by a bridge. The transverse halls only are accessible to the general public; that which bisects them is devoted to the legal public. Thus many of the objections to central hall are obviated, and many of its advantages are secured. There would be no difficulty in excluding the general public where their presence is undesirable. The Great Central Hall in question is to be 478 ft. in length (more than half as long again as the King's Library) by 60 ft. in width, and 90 ft. high to the apex of the roof. Its sides are appropriated to three stories of consultation rooms and witnesses' rooms, attached to the Courts, with windows looking into the hall. Above them are a clerestory and glass roof. It is thus an internal glass-roofed area, the outer sides of which are the interior walls of the inner zone before named. To these abut the witnesses' rooms, &c.; then the Courts; then a corridor, on the opposite side of which appear the Judges' rooms, which open upon the streets that are themselves inclosed by the exterior zone of offices.—Of Mr. Burges's plan we have already written.—It is evident that Mr. Abraham suggested the broad principles of the plan upon which the former improved.—Mr. Deane's plan, about which, as with that of Mr. Lockwood, we shall write further, is commendable for the extreme simplicity with which its masses are arranged, for the freedom of its means of access, which are so complete that it would be hard for any one to lose his way in the building; also for the felicitous disposition of the Courts about open areas (wherein this plan resembles that of Mr. Street), and especially for the mode in which these areas communicate on the ground floor, so as to ensure circulation of air between them.

We will now turn to the architectural portion of Mr. Scott's work, and give special attention to

the Strand front, which, generally speaking, is divided into four floors, the lowest being an open arcade or cloister. This façade is divided into three parts, the centre portion of which differs from the wings in some details, and in being divided from them by a tower (to be used for ventilation) on either hand. This mass is 150 feet wide, and advanced 30 feet from the main line, and has the arcade disposed to form a porch, in seven openings. The height of this central mass of the façade is greater by one story than that of the others; it has, also, a high roof above it, which they have not, and is crowned by a ridge-crest. Above this roof-line the towers, although exhibiting no novelties in their long lights, are the most elegant features of this front; the "corbelled-out" parapet is very flat indeed. Such, broadly described, is the south front of Mr. Scott's central block; the other fronts, internal and external, exhibit similar characteristics, but of much simpler form, and masses disposed in a like but less effective manner. We have large flat spaces of wall incrusted with ornament, and forms which, like the ornaments, are rather monotonous. The ends, so to speak, of the outer shell are connected with this front at its southern angles by screens of highly elaborate and splendid nature, with statues, cusps, pinnacles, fluted panels and superficial decorative elements of the like kind. These are pierced for entrances to the internal street. These ends, with their gables, although much less pretentious, are far more valuable in design than their larger neighbour, the façade of the block. They are at once more elegant and more severe. Beyond these are the dumpy and ungraceful Record Towers. On the Carey Street or north front of the outer shell, a great feature is made by grouping the street bridge which is to connect Lincoln's Inn to the Courts with the entrance-porch. This is one of the most effective parts of the design before us, and very fortunately illustrated by Mr. Allom's charming drawing. Architecturally speaking, it displays no novel beauties.

As to the interior, let us say, that beneath the before-named great dome, which stands in the centre of the building, and, although far more bulky than the pyramid of the north front, yet, owing to its position, will be invisible from the neighbouring streets, are the central staircases and lifts. These open on a great landing or octagonal hall, having four bays that alternate with as many broad galleries, which lead to the ambulatories that—surrounding the interior sides of the hollow block of building—serve to connect the Courts with each other and the main staircase. On the plan the Courts form a line exterior to that of the ambulatories, and are placed on an "accommodated" floor, that is, level with the bench. On the same level are the rooms of the judges and the juries, which are lighted by clerestory lanterns, and form another line, exterior to which is a second corridor, running round the whole building, and giving access to the judges and juries' rooms, on the one hand, and those which, on the other hand, are set apart for the use of counsel and for consultation-rooms, &c. Beneath the corridor thus described is a second corridor, which, by the way, must be illuminated by gas, unless light sufficient (which we greatly doubt) is obtainable by windows at its ends and by the staircases, or borrowed from over the doors of the attorneys' rooms; this passage, dark or light, as the case may be, gives access to a range of rooms beneath those of the Judges. A lower ambulatory, beneath the greater one before named, gives access to one set of these chambers; a similar facility is afforded on the other side to the corresponding range. The rooms beneath the Judges' chambers are to be lighted by means of wells, or minor areas, intervening to the Courts. The domical central hall, for which Mr. Scott furnishes an alternative, but not desirable, design with a glass roof, is not groined, but smoothly ceiled, and to be painted with pictures; beneath the dome are two lines of windows that are divided by a cornice having a running "frieze" of sculptures round the whole interior beneath the sills of the lower range and resting on a third, larger cornice, which is placed above the great arcade of eight noble pointed arches. The spandrels here are to be filled with pictures,

The best parts of Mr. Scott's interior design are the ambulatories and the domical hall; the latter, however, it must be borne in mind, would much depend for effect upon its pictorial decorations. It is certainly a very magnificent piece of designing, not the less valuable because it pretty freely repeats the arrangements of other domes which are not of Gothic character. Architecturally speaking, we prefer his ambulatory to all parts of this design; it is formed by a double arcade of pointed arches, with domical roofs, resting on clustered pillars, to which statues are attached. We should omit these statues, and depend for beauty on the design itself. As to the exterior, we feel this design to be defective in feeling for proportion; this is especially visible in the relationship of the pinnacles and turrets with the fronts to which they are attached, and, above all, with the central dome. There is also great want of variety in the outlines of the masses; hence the sections are monotonous, and the façades become almost tame, because bay after bay repeats itself upon them to the destruction of our sense of richness and artistic freedom. This sense is not gratified by the profuse use of sculpture and architectonic carving on Mr. Scott's work, because those decorations are, for the most part, extrinsic and incrusted, not organic or spontaneous. There is nothing original in these details; their cost would be enormous; they are put together with so little spirit that half the quantity aptly applied would be more effective. The details are fine in themselves, but owe nothing to Mr. Scott, who might have found them in St. So-and-So great church, such a cloister or great hall. To sum up, finally, we think his plan is admirable, but his architecture so commonplace, that, if stripped of its decorations, it would lose nearly all its effectiveness, if not all its beauty. The problem before the competitors is how to unite the greatest convenience of plan with the noblest of architecture. We should think Mr. Allom, who was Mr. Scott's draughtsman, could, single-handed, design as fine a building as this, which already owes so much to him.

#### FINE-ART GOSSIP.

We are enabled to contradict the statement that Mr. G. F. Watts has declined the Associateship of the Royal Academy conferred upon him, without solicitation, by the last election in Trafalgar Square. It would have been regrettable if the first-fruits of a higher policy and larger scope of election in the Academy had been rendered nugatory by the refusal of one of our few really accomplished painters to share the honours and perform the duties of his profession. For the sake of the Academy, as a representative body, even more than for that of Mr. Watts, we are glad to be enabled to write thus, and to say that the choice of the last election has removed two names from that list of "outsiders," which is a standing strong reproach to the body. The accession of Messrs. Watts and Armitage will very materially increase the influence of the more highly educated section of the members. The choice of such men is the best proof that can be needed of the excellence of that policy which has admitted the younger members of the Academy to vote. The Academy could afford to receive, without discredit, even the refusal of its honours by so able a man as Mr. Watts.

Mr. Edward Hargitt has been elected an Associate of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

In November last (*Athenæum* 2036) we asked and shortly afterwards (*Athenæum* 2033) received the reply to a question for the whereabouts of Stothard's grave in Bunhill Fields burial-ground. Our readers learned with satisfaction that the site was still ascertainable, and will be glad to know, in addition, that a proposal is afloat to place a bust of this poetic artist and charming designer in the National Gallery, "by the side of similar memorials of deceased British artists." Wilkie and Mulready are already thus commemorated; the one was a Scotchman by birth and education, the other of Irish origin. Stothard was an Englishman, a Londoner, born in Long Acre, and certainly one of the most catholic-minded of our artists. Ample materials exist for a portrait. It is proposed that Mr. Weekes should execute the likeness. Mr. W.

Smith, of Upper Southwick Street, is treasurer and secretary.

At the recent meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society, among other matters before the Committee, Mr. Ferrey desired advice about the suggested removal of the choir-screen at Christ Church, Hants. The Committee unanimously decided that the screen ought to be preserved as an archaeological and ritual monument of the highest interest; and that, having regard to the ample dimensions of the nave at Christ Church, the proper plan would be to fit up a *quasi-choir* at its east end, with a "people's altar," leaving the existing choir intact, for use on special occasions. Mr. Ferrey described the works in process of rebuilding the Romanesque apsidal chapels on the east side of the south transept. He also mentioned the late wanton destruction of the screens at Wimborne Minster.

Mr. Burges, whose recently-constructed designs for the warehouse of Messrs. Skilbeck, Lower Thames Street, have deserved so much applause, has just completed the erection of an almost equally well-designed series of houses for model lodgings. These are erected in St. Anne's Court, Soho, and will repay a visit by those who care to see how an architectural effect, and considerable decorative variety may be obtained by means which approach the simplest, and are so dealt with as to answer all modern and apt requirements. The works in Lower Thames Street, a drysalter's warehouse on a considerable scale, go far, if not thoroughly, to solve the modern problem of how to produce a well-designed, handsome, suitable and expressive building for trade purposes. We know nothing of town architecture in this order which can be compared with this admirable adaptation of sound Gothic principles to modern service, and congratulate all concerned in the great success.

Our Birmingham friends are earnest in desiring to have a Fine Art Gallery in their town, and, having held a meeting in furtherance of that object, have appointed a committee to see what can be done in the matter.

As a supplement to our notice of the General Exhibition of Water Colour Drawings, take the following:—Miss F. M. Key's *Twilight on Dartmoor* (No. 104) is a solemnly effective picture, wrought with extreme care and skill to represent a pool among rushes and gorse on a boulder-strewn waste. The clearness of tone and precision of handling are admirable.—Mr. C. Potter's *Llyn Idwal* (173) shows the high tarn with a swooping mass of mist above it, the light transfiguring one portion of the vapour and dividing it in another; in front the rushing overflow of the lake; behind are the summits of the highest hills. This is an excellent picture, which has, what is not common in landscape art, an expressed idea.—A subject has not been imparted to Mr. J. Knight's *Town Sandhills* (205), by the introduction of a group of boys who kindle a fire among the dunes of that neglected coast; yet so much of colour and powerful treatment appear in it to merit applause for the artist.—Mr. R. P. Burcham's *Wild Flowers* (224)—primroses, &c.—is deliciously arranged, modelled, and coloured; a perfect gem.—Mr. F. Dillon's *After-glow, Egypt*, (225)—the rosy-tinted shore of the Nile at evening,—is, with all its effectiveness, not a little artificial: see the flimsiness of the foreground rocks.—Two examples of the "old-fashioned" manner of painting appear in Mr. T. J. Soper's *Chestnut Avenue* (216), which is highly commendable for breadth and skilful handling, and Mr. B. Bradley's *Fording Cattle across Corran Ferry, Loch Eil*, (240) which, with some capitalily-designed and painted animals, shows that the artist recognizes Nature in landscape in a curiously conventional manner. This manner, having breadth and vigorous expression, is acceptable.—No. 239, by Mr. A. Ditchfield, is a classicalized, very poetical, unsubstantial and tender landscape, showing trees and shadows standing motionless: see also the almost equally delightful representation of a later hour of twilight (263). This work contrasts thoroughly with Mr. A. Goodwin's *Grey Day, Yorkshire*, (238)—a still pool, with trees upon its banks, a valley receding in veiled light; a very striking work, which is greatly deficient in solidity of execution and essentially

commonplace in feeling, yet very delightful, on account of its recognition of Nature and courageous rendering of colour.—Mr. H. Moore's *Mid-day, Strensall Moor, York*, (326)—a smooth pool glittering among marshes; a very brilliant sketch, in which the clouds are "blotty."—We have a sunny, highly-coloured and rather hard picture of a rocky headland in Mr. G. Wolfe's admirably modelled *The Earthquake, Lundy Island*, (372).—Mr. G. A. Storey's *Solitude* (560)—hawthorns in a meadow, a river behind, with trees, all in fading light—is a very delicately drawn and subtly coloured picture.—Mr. C. R. Aston's *Criccieth Castle, Sunset*, (605)—the breaking sea and a long space of wet sand that is gleaming in the fading light, and reflecting all about it, the sky, cliffs and castle, upon their summits. A work showing great care and knowledge of the nature of reflecting surfaces: withal, a charming picture. Mr. G. Mawley's *Knoll of Beech Trees* (638)—foliage on a bank, in morning light—shows some very delicate and nice points of workmanship: see the near stems and the hazy part to the left of the picture.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—FIRST CONCERT, March 11.—Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover Square. Conductor, Mr. W. G. Cusins. Soloists, Herr Joachim, Miss Louise Prinz and Mr. H. G. Oehringen. Subscriptions, Four Guineas; Family ditto, Three and a Half Guineas; Single Tickets, 1s.; at L. Coe, Addison & Co., 63, New Bond Street.

By order, STANLEY LUCAS, Secretary.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.—St. James's Hall, THURSDAY, Feb. 22.—Madrigals and Part-songs.—Mendelssohn's Psalm, "Why rare the heathen?" Soloists, Miss Edith Wynne and Miss Madeline Schiller.—Tickets, 6s., 3s., 2s., and 1s.; at L. Coe & Addison, 63, New Bond Street; Keith Prowse, 45, Cheapside; and Austin's, Ticket-offices, St. James's Hall.

MENDELSSOHN'S 'ANTIGONE' MUSIC.—Twenty-two years have elapsed since an attempt was first made to present this very fine work in London. The fate of 'Antigone' then was curious. The play was given mainly for the sake of the music; but so very deficient was the execution that the latter produced no effect, whereas the might of the 'Antigone' Greek tragedy asserted itself in defiance of mediocre acting, and the drama, remote as it is from our time and sympathies, drew "the town." Thus the choruses—respected as they have been among the composer's works, and one of them, 'The Bacchanal,' one of his brightest and most vigorous inspirations—have been more sparingly heard in public than might have been otherwise the case. It should be added, however, that, separated from the spoken dialogue, a certain heaviness of effect is inevitable, arising from the continuous use of male voices only, and, in some of the numbers, from the didactic nature of the words. For England, these are not redeemed by any classical or poetical grace in the translation.

Mendelssohn used to speak of this, among his compositions, with some complacency, and of its first performance at Potsdam as one of the happiest evenings of a happy life; but it may be doubted whether, musically, it has ever been so well executed as concert-music as on Wednesday week. True, certain differences of register made themselves felt. The forced-up German tenor voice is not easily replaced by anything of English growth; and some little vigour of effect must be lost, in music even so temperately written as this, by the substitution.

On reconsidering the music and the performance deliberately, not overlooking the impression produced by them on an audience both crowded and select, we cannot state that the result altogether corresponded with the pains taken. A feeling of weariness and strained attention, in spite of anxiety to admire, which is not synonymous with real pleasure, was evident. In proportion as the public becomes more cultivated will it analyze its sensations; and there was no avoiding the impression that, noteworthy as the choruses are (no need to dwell on their principal features, as they are familiar to our amateurs), they demand beyond most other music execution under their original conditions. Every point having been studied with a view to presentation on an exceptional stage, the absence of scene, costume, declamation, and action, and the inevit-

able preponderance of one colour in the mass of masculine voices, are serious drawbacks on the chances of frequent acceptance when what was written merely as an adjunct is set forth as a main attraction. This opinion, we are aware, will not satisfy the thoroughgoing idolaters of the master; but it is one not hastily formed, and was thoroughly confirmed on the late occasion. There is no hearing or studying Mendelssohn's four Court commissions for incidental stage-music, of which 'Antigone' was the first, without our feeling regret. Collectively, they contain an amount of idea and variety sufficient for at least a couple of operas. What a boon these would have been to the theatres of Europe need not be stated. As matters stand, the circulation of these "fancies chaste and noble," set off by the refined experience of consummate art, will and must be, of necessity, limited. Mr. H. Leslie, however, intends to repeat the 'Antigone' choruses early in the course of next month.

DRURY LANE.—The comedy of 'The Jealous Wife' retains the stage on account of the two strongly-marked characters, Mr. and Mrs. Oakley, whose comic distresses are sure to interest the audience when competently represented. It was reproduced on Monday. Mr. Phelps has seized the prominent features of the nervous husband, whose constitutional weakness had allowed a self-willed woman, fond of dominion, to tyrannize in his house to the destruction both of his peace and her own. Mrs. Herman Vezin has all that impulse can give to realize the vigour and restless anxiety that belong to the robust but suspicious wife, who affects rather than feels jealousy, in order to maintain her power over a fond but timid husband. The two principal parts being so well supported, and the subordinate characters efficiently performed by acknowledged artists, the popularity of this excellent comedy will lose nothing by the cast called into requisition at this theatre.

STRAND.—Mr. Daly's drama, entitled 'Married Daughters and Young Husbands,' was revived on Monday, and met with a flattering reception.

#### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

To offer an account of every *Popular Concert* as it happens would be, for this journal, an impossibility. The fashion of serial entertainments has spread so widely, that whereas one concert presented itself for notice ten years ago, there are now a dozen crying "Give, give!" We must, for this week, be contented with stating the encouraging fact that the vogue of these excellently-conducted entertainments increases. A stringed Quartett by Schumann (in F) was in the programme of Monday last. Herr Pauer will play there to-day; Madame Schumann (who is to play at the Crystal Palace to-day) will be the pianist on Monday, when, also, the effect of Herr Brahms's Sestett for stringed instruments is to be tried. Our opinion of the music of New Germany is on record; also our conviction that, by degrees, any public may be enticed into the endurance of what is essentially false in point of Art. After having seen the statues of Michael Angelo (the only ones which can compete with the masterpieces of ancient sculpture), the Italians could go into ecstasies over the flagrant frippery of Bernini's marbles! A like humour of change, setting towards a point of the compass diametrically opposite to Della Cruscanism, has entered the world of German music. But it is only cowardice that would stop its ears to the sounds of the time, be they for better or for worse. Every one must be grateful for every opportunity of making acquaintance with that which is going on in the world to which his studies and sympathies are directed.

The first trial of New Chamber Compositions, held by the *Musical Society*, took place the evening before last. The pieces set down to be tried were, a Stringed Quartett, by Mr. Lea Summers; a Sestett for two Violins, two Violas, and two Violoncellos, by the author who writes as Herr Hager, of Vienna (and whose 'John the Baptist' was among the last novelties presented by Mr. Hullah, at St. Martin's Hall); a Septett for Pianoforte, wind and stringed Instruments, by Mr. E. Aguilar;

and a Stringed Quartett by Mr. C. A. Barry. This music is only to be spoken of after it has passed the stage of trial, and come to public hearing. Prof. Pole is to deliver a lecture (the subject not as yet mentioned) on the 13th of March.

The battle of Ritualism, Rationalism, and Puritanism is making sad work of the peace of our national church. We now read that a new Dean has come to reign over Norwich Cathedral, whose resolution, so far as we can understand it, is to simplify and render more congregational the musical service there.

We are informed that the performance of Mr. Benedict's 'St. Cecilia,' by the *Sacred Harmonic Society*, is fixed for the 22nd of March, the principal soprano part to be taken by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington.—Mr. J. Thomas's Welsh *Cantata*, 'The Bride of Neath Valley,' seems coming into request at national celebrations. It will be performed, we understand, on St. David's Day, at Cheltenham.

A new operetta—the music by Miss Gabriel, in the book of which Mr. Planché is said to have a hand—will probably see stage light during the season.

M. Gounod's Solemn Mass was repeated on Valentine's Day, at Manchester, at Mr. Halle's weekly concert.—On Thursday, the 7th inst., Mr. Halle's programme included Beethoven's triple *Concerto*, only played by Mr. Halle, Herr Joachim and Signor Piatti; Schubert's Rondo for Pianoforte and Violin, and M. Gade's overture to 'Hamlet.'

Here is something as pleasant as it is significant. The *Observer* tells us that, at the twentieth annual dinner of the Metropolitan Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Association, the chairman, after his health was drunk, as a most effective pianist among other of his merits, after expressing his acknowledgments, "consented, in conjunction with a friend, to give a Turkish march on the pianoforte."

Herr Wilhelm Ganz is giving three Pianoforte *Maînettes*,—the first on Wednesday last.

Prof. Pole, one of the most accomplished amateurs whom we have ever possessed,—and England's amateurs, as students, (not creators, neither executants,) make up a body which may challenge those of any other country,—delivered the first of two lectures 'On the Mechanical Structure of the Pianoforte and other Musical Instruments,' at the London Institution, on Monday last. The name of the lecturer is a warrant for the work being intelligently done, Mr. Pole having, besides musical, the needful mechanical knowledge.

Mr. Henry Phillips, our well-remembered *basso*, announces his intention of resuming his profession as a singer of ballads, having found himself (he writes) in full possession of his powers on the occasion of a recent concert at Liverpool, and thinking that his example as a declamatory singer may be of use to the rising generation, with whose declamation he professes himself anything but satisfied. We wish the veteran, from whom the world received so much pleasure in years gone by, every success, though we cannot subscribe to such a sweeping denunciation as his so long as we possess such sayers and singers as Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Santley, and Miss Edith Wynne, who speaks her words better than did any English soprano in the time of Mr. Phillips. The kindest commentary on such a frank announcement as his is by frankness not less explicit. We trust that he has well weighed the well-known fact, that it is one thing to sing with his old power and charm at a single concert, another to support the wear and tear of repetition. He might wisely call to mind the last appearances of that greater declamatory singer, Braham. The first of these was excellent; and it might have been fondly fancied that the artist's former power and popularity were to undergo no diminution. At the second and subsequent ones we had a sad illustration of the truth—or truism, as may be—that Time will be Time, let Will be what it will. There is a period of life at which disappointment is of small consequence, nay, rather, as in Byron's case, at which it may stir every fibre of that self-assertion which must and *will* conquer. But that is the time of youth. Bad weather in spring may be atoned for

by a bright summer and a plenteous autumn: not so bad weather in early winter.

There are to be *Popular Promenade Concerts* at St. Martin's Hall, with acrobatic interludes!—the speculation being apparently an offset of the Alhambra one.

A day or two since arrived from Messrs. Kerr & Richardson, of Glasgow, a specimen of printed music-paper for score (we are informed), published eight years ago, in which every objection that was brought against the paper forwarded by Mr. Douglas is provided for. We cannot fancy anything of its kind more satisfactory.

There has been a sale of manuscripts, published music, and instruments, at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's within the last week.

We derive the following Parisian news from the *Gazette Musicale*. First. Signor Alary's operetta, 'Locanda Gratis' (performed for his benefit at the Italian Opera), is said to have had a pretty little success!—Second. That indomitable singer M. Duprez, whose resolution to cleave out a new career for himself as a composer is one of the most remarkable facts ever written in singer's history, has completed a grand Requiem Mass for five voices.—Third. The production of M. Gounod's 'Romeo and Juliet' is now, by report, adjourned to the first fortnight in March, which (according to the habit of such theatrical compacts in France) may mean the second fortnight in April. As the time for the production of this opera draws on, Rumour is busying itself as to the value of the music. Without, for the present, offering any opinion of our own (which we hold would be an impropriety, till the opera has been seen as well as heard), it may be said that every variety of rumour is current, as was sure to be the case with a musical drama, to follow the most successful opera of modern times, 'Faust,' and, like 'Faust,' containing its garden love-duett. It may be pointed out that by this very circumstance the composer is placed in a position of no ordinary difficulty. Suffice it to say, that the balance of judgment by anticipation is a success outdoeing that of 'Faust.' It is added that the terms demanded for the right of its representation in England outdo any that have been hitherto proposed to managers. So much for the career of a writer who for the first ten years of his struggle upwards was not in this country (save by ourselves) credited with the right of talent, warranting his works a patient hearing. An opera by M. Bizet, on the story of Scott's 'Fair Maid of Perth,' is to follow 'Romeo and Juliet.' A new lady, said to be promising, Mdlle. Lembelé (taught, as was Madame Carvalho, by M. Duprez), has been engaged at the Théâtre Lyrique. It is said that another new singer, Mdlle. Jeanne de Vies, has been secured by M. Carvalho.—Fourth. The production of Signor Verdi's 'Don Carlos' at the Grand Opera cannot, it appears, take place without the usual convulsions which mark the *mæstro's* proceedings. They are said to have led to the partial deposition of the conductor of the orchestra, M. Georges Hainl, and to the installation of M. Gevaert in absolute power, to conduct operas whensoever it shall please him so to do. M. Hainl is the least competent conductor who has presided at the Grand Opera since the year 1836. M. Gevaert, every one avers, has no common amount of science as a theorist and as a reader of scores; and he has written one or two operas, among others, 'Le Billet de Marguerite,' which introduced Madame Gueymard (then Mdlle. Lauters) to the French public. They contained dull but well-intentioned music. We cannot call to mind his having figured as a conductor. Why not have given the baton to M. Berlioz, who (whatever be thought of his music) is admirable as managing and exciting an orchestra, or, if not to him, to M. Pasdeloup?—Fifth. Herr Kömpel, a meritorious German violinist, who has been heard in London, has been playing at the Athénée Concerts. There, also, the attractive choruses to M. Gounod's 'Ulysse' have been given. Mr. Costa is in Paris, to superintend the production of his 'Naaman' there.—Sixth. 'Sardanapalus' has tempted more than one opera composer. The subject was proposed to Meyerbeer, but that astute man discerned its inherent want of variety, and contented himself with the catastrophe

by way of finishing his 'Prophet' with a *coup de théâtre*. The Abbé Liszt all but completed his setting of the tale, to a *libretto* by Signor Guarita, many a year ago. An amateur, the Baroness Le Maistre, has been knocking at the doors of the theatres for years past with her story and score in hand. M. Victorin de Joncières, whose music on the subject of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' was produced a year or two ago at a concert, has succeeded in bringing his opera on the story to a hearing at the Théâtre Lyrique, and, the world is assured by two near relatives of his who are Parisian journalists (the correspondent of the *Orchestra* being our authority), with the greatest success. M. Gouzen, a young and intelligent member of the Parisian confraternity, writes of the opera to the *Gazette Musicale* in a less enthusiastic strain; so, too, does M. Ernest Reyer, who now criticizes for the *Journal des Débats*.

*Il Trovatore*, in a late number, announces a new Italian drama, by Signor Valerio Buselli (an author apparently "to fame unknown"), written with the questionable idea of its becoming a sequel to 'La Dame aux Camélias'; another, 'Il Capolavoro d'Orlando,' by Signor Praga; a new opera by Signor Chesi di Piaceenza, 'La Contessa di Medina.' The same number of the same journal announces the discovery at Meiningen of the score of a comic opera, by Beethoven, till now unknown! What will Mr. Thayer and Dr. Nohl make of this? If we were not, unhappily, compelled to distrust the reality of Italian raptures by long experience, we might be led to hope, from the correspondence of the *Gazette dei Teatri*, that an operatic star had really appeared (though in as unimportant a place as Ascoli) in the person of Signora Giovanna Stella, a young lady of German extraction, who is described in the most enthusiastic phrases which the dictionary of rapture contains.

The Paris correspondent of the *Observer* announces the probable appearance at the Italian Opera there of a *prima donna* of Prussian origin, whose stage name is Signora Edwige Ricopieri, of whom no common things are to be expected.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the *Orchestra* describes a late performance, at the Concert of the National Association, of a setting of Schiller's 'Song of the Bell,' by Nicolai. Of the existence of this work we were till now unaware. It is not included by M. Féris in his catalogue of the compositions of the author of 'The Merry Wives'; but that does not surprise us, since the author's omissions and commissions in the new edition of his 'Biographie' are already matter of history. Every one would be glad to know more of it, since such pleasure as Andreas Romberg's mediocre setting of Schiller's magnificent lyric gave in its time has manifestly gone by. Can any Correspondent inform us whether a copy is to be found in England?—At a concert of the *Felix Meritis Society*, of which that excellent musician, Mynheer Verhulst, is conductor, a Symphony by Herr Volkmann, of Prague, whose name stands well among modern German composers, was introduced. Little more than Herr Volkmann's name is known here. We only can connect it with a rather dismal Violoncello Concerto, extraordinarily well performed by Herr Pöpper, at the Carlsruhe Festival of doleful memory.

There is a rumour that M. Rubinstein is about to resign his appointments in Russia, and to take up his residence in Germany.

Letters from North Germany tell us of a magnificent concert personation of *Orpheus*, given the other evening, at Breslau, by Madame Viardot, who is sojourning at Berlin for awhile. "The *furore* it excited even among sworn defenders of 'the Future,'" writes our Correspondent, "could not be exceeded." Her *Eurydice* was that charming artist of promise, Mdlle. Orgeni, who, too, has been singing at the Breslau opera-house, for some time past, with real success; and the performance was throughout a very fine one. So much for the "waning popularity" of the oldest opera (and simplest, to boot) and the oldest composer that keep the stage.

To the credit of Parisian decorum (cabal or no cabal), the notorious female known by the name of Cora Pearl, who was engaged on the strength

of her notoriety to figure at Les Bouffes Parisiens, has been compelled, by public displeasure at her incapacity and immodesty, to throw up her engagement.

The drama adapted by Mr. John Oxenford, from Mrs. G. L. Banks's novel of 'God's Providence House,' is underlined at Sadler's Wells as in active preparation.

#### MISCELLANEA

*Old Rhymes and Riddles.*—I think the collector of 'Popular Romances of the West of England' is in error in appending to his verses Dr. Whewell's riddle, which, in my opinion, has no reference to the original verses, which are these:—

Canst thou make me a cambric shirt—  
Savory, sage, rosemary, and thyme—  
Without e'er a seam, or one stitch of work?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.  
Canst thou wash it in yonder well—  
Savory, sage, rosemary, and thyme—  
Where water ne'er rose, or rain ever fell?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.  
Canst thou dry it on yonder thorn—  
Savory, sage, rosemary, and thyme—  
That never bore blossom since Adam was born?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.  
Now thou hast asked me questions Three,  
And I will do the same of thee.  
Canst thou find me an acre of land  
Between the sea and the sea sand?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.  
Canst thou plough it with a cow's horn,  
And sow it o'er with one peppercorn?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.  
Canst thou mow it with a sickle of leather,  
And bind it up with a peacock's feather?  
And then, thou shalt be a true lover of mine.

—I have been unable to discover the writer of these verses; but this is the true version of them, as received in this county, to my knowledge, upwards of forty years. Perhaps *Notes and Queries* may be able to throw some light upon this matter.

JOHN RISHTON LONSDALE.

Liverpool, Feb. 14, 1867.

*British Sculptors.*—Having read a notice in your number for January 18, on a work by H. Lonsdale, M.D., viz., 'The Life and Works of the late M. L. Watson, Sculptor,'—and as my silence may be open to misconstruction with regard to Dr. Lonsdale's remarks upon myself,—may I ask you to introduce this letter in the next impression of your valuable paper? I sculptured the whole of the stone enrichments of the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, under the late Mr. Dyer, architect, and the managing committee; and, I have the pleasure to add, with approval and satisfaction. I claim, therefore, to be the sculptor of that work, on which I have placed my name. M. L. Watson's name as the inventor, modeller or delineator, is, and has been before the public from the opening of the above rooms, on his own model of the pediment, which is retained in the building. Dr. Lonsdale alludes to me as a 'stonemason and copyist'; my works will best show the public what I am. I have the honour of stating that I am the fortunate possessor of a medal presented to me upwards of fifty years ago by His late R. H. the Duke of Sussex, for an original model from Scripture: "The Cripple at the Pool of Bethesda," 5th chapter, St. John. My father, before myself, and my sons at the present time, claim to be sculptors; and our works have introduced us to commissions for some of the highest dignitaries of the Church of England, as well as noblemen and gentry of the land; and on these we are content to rest our name. In our studio, at the present time, may be seen original models and sculptures in marble of "The good Bishop Ken"; also "Dr. Henry Byam," chaplain and companion to King Charles the Second during his exile both by sea and land; and "Pym," a great political leader in the House of Commons during the reign of Charles the First. These memorials of Somersetshire worthies are being raised by public subscription amongst the spirited gentlemen of that county to be placed in their sculpture-gallery at the Shire-Hall, Taunton, as their next additions. THOMAS TYLEY, Sen.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—A. S.—F. S.—S. C. L.—J. B. P.—V. V.—H.—W. S.—P. M. H.—received.

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The New Prospectus, &c. forwarded on application.

Feb., 1867. SAMUEL SMILES, Secretary.

CLOSE OF THE BOOKS OF

THE SCOTTISH EQUITABLE (MUTUAL) LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Established 1831.

The Assurance Lists for the Thirty-sixth Year will be CLOSED on 1st March.

Proposals lodged at the Head Office or any of the Agencies, on or before that date, will obtain the advantage of one year's additional Premium over later Proposals.

Position of the Society at March, 1866.

Existing Assurances .. . . . . 45,336,052

Accrued and Founds .. . . . . 1,640,792

Annual Revenue .. . . . . 287,008

The whole Profits belong to the Assured, who are expressly freed from all responsibility.

The Vested Bonus Additions amount to 1,491,960.

Forms of Proposal and all information may be obtained at the Head Office or Agencies.

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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "The Editor"—Advertisements and Business Letters to "The Publisher"—at the Office, 29, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.  
 Printed by JAMES HOLMES, at No. 4, Took's-court, Chancery-lane, in the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Middlesex; and published by JOHN FRANCIS, 29, Wellington-street, in said county.  
 Publisher, at 29, Wellington-street aforesaid. Agents: for SCOTLAND, MESSRS. BELL & BRADFUTE, Edinburgh; for IRELAND, MR. JOHN ROBERTSON, Dublin.—Saturday, February 23, 1867.